



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

Islamic League Official on Non-Islamic Forces

LD1309223490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2005 GMT
13 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah 13 Sep (SPA)—The secretary-general of the Islamic World League, Dr. 'Abdallah Nusayf, praised the positive resolutions adopted by the international Islamic conference which was held to discuss the current situation in the Arabian Gulf region, and which was concluded last night in Mecca.

In a press conference in Jeddah today he talked about the importance of the conference and its discussions. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that the conference allowed the presence of non-Islamic forces in the Arabian Gulf region as a measure dictated by necessity because of the threats to the security and safety of the countries of the region, and also because the Islamic Shari'ah allows this when there is a need for these forces in the region. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says PLO Working With Libya on Gulf

JN1509175190 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has answered a question by WAFA [Palestinian News Agency] on brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi's initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis. He said: Libyan efforts to contain the Gulf crisis began immediately after the start of the crisis. Hence the Palestinian-Libyan efforts before and after the Cairo summit to find an Arab solution to this crisis within the one Arab family. The kind Libyan initiative launched by brother leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi culminates this Arab endeavor to avert an explosion of the crisis and a war that will be devastating for the Arab nation and its existence.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar added: We are cooperating with brother leader Mu'ammarr through this initiative in the interest of our Arab nation.

Alleged Letter to Fahd Said To Show PLO Rift

TA1409104490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 14 Sep 90 p 20

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, a senior adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, has written a letter to Saudi King Fahd in which he expresses "my solidarity with the Royal Saudi Kingdom, its king, government and people," according to a rival in the PLO leadership.

The purported existence of the letter was revealed by 'Abbas Zaki (Abu-Zaki), who is responsible for West Bank affairs in the PLO central committee. The letter is a severe "embarrassment" to the PLO, he said.

Abu-Zaki was one of three PLO officials who went to Tehran this week to mediate better relations between Iran and its former enemy, Iraq.

In an interview to be published in today's edition of AL-NADWAH, an East Jerusalem weekly specializing in political interviews, Abu-Zaki says that Iran is likely to "stun the world" in the next few days with a political initiative. He suggested that President 'Ali Rafsanjani would end his compliance with the world-wide siege of Iraq and would invite Saddam Husayn to Tehran.

The revelation of a letter to Fahd by al-Hasan, whether real or fabricated, appears to indicate a rift between pro-Saudis and pro-Iraqis in the PLO. Al-Hasan is known for his pro-Saudi sympathies. He visited Riyadh recently and his wife resides there. Abu-Zaki, who is firmly in the Iraqi camp, said the letter "surprised the PLO leadership."

In the interview, Abu-Zaki attacks the Soviet Union, despite 'Arafat's support for the Soviet position at this week's Helsinki summit, calling the Soviet cooperation with the U.S. a disappointment. He says the Soviets "don't understand the dimensions of the U.S. presence" in the area and points out that, "cruise missiles are a stone's throw from the Soviet border."

Protest Lodged With Yeltsin Over Sharon Visit

LD1409202690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] The state of Palestine has lodged an official note of protest to Mr. Boris Yeltsin; chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federative Republic, against the Moscow municipality playing host to the criminal Ari'el Sharon who was responsible for the Sabra and Shatila massacres and also for the invasion of Lebanon in 1982. He was the man primarily responsible for the Zionist policy of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory which has been condemned internationally.

The ambassador of the state of Palestine to the Soviet Union delivered the protest note during his meeting yesterday with Mr. Vladimir Vinogradov, the foreign minister of the Russian Federation.

It is known that the criminal and terrorist Sharon is currently on a visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the mayor of the Moscow municipality, Gavril Popov, to undertake a propaganda mission to prompt more Jews to emigrate to the Israeli state in addition to concluding commercial deals with some Soviet organizations.

Fatah, Hamas Appeal for Unity in Territories

JN1509180790 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1648 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Statement issued by Fatah and Hamas Movements in Amman, Jordan; date not given—read by the announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In order to bolster national unity and unify ranks against the occupation, we ask the brothers in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine] and Fatah inside occupied Palestine to observe the following:

1. To endeavor to immediately stop clashes in all regions.
2. To endeavor to stop behavior that might lead to clashes.
3. To stop all types of media campaigns.
4. To settle differences through dialogue in a spirit of fraternity and through the mediation committees.
5. To stop nonbrotherly behavior in the jails and detentions camps, and to give all trends the chance to take part in all committees and activities on an equal footing.
6. Not to pay attention to rumors and to provocateurs, infiltrators, and agents, and to deny the common enemy the opportunity to cause discord among the sons of the same people.

We beseech God to guide our steps on the right path.

Commentary Says Bush Wants To Control World

JN1409130690 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
0500 GMT 14 Sep 90

["Reading of the Political Situation" feature]

[Text] Dear brothers, the essence of what U.S. President Bush said before Congress yesterday can be summarized in one sentence which he uttered during the speech. There is no alternative to the U.S.' leading the world; in other words, there is no alternative to U.S. hegemony, control, authority, colonialism, oppression, settlement, occupation, expansionism, and terrorism in it.

This is the essence of what he said, and what he was forced to say, despite the fact that he tried to cover it with scores of phrases, sentences, and words about the new world of freedom; a world governed by law; a world where it is possible for all world countries to enjoy prosperity; where the legitimacy of the law prevails over the law of the jungle; where the strong preserve the rights of the weak; a world free of terrorism.

Bush brought to the world the good tidings of this birth of the new age in which he reached an understanding with Soviet President Gorbachev at the Helsinki summit. Bush said loudly and clearly that the condition of this new world, the condition for its existence, is the absolute leading role of the United States as the only side that decides its course. The side that decides its political, economic, social, educational, and ideological options is the United States, the White House. As for the world—the rest of the world with its four other continents—it

should only implement the U.S. decision along the U.S. style and in the U.S. method.

For the four continents to be a part of this new world, they must cancel their identity, history, existence, and personality. There is no need for all that since this age is the age of the United States, the mind is the U.S. mind, and the rest are apes surviving in the White House, which is the world.

Here, we do not wish to find fault with this U.S. arrogance and haughtiness, unprecedented in the course of history. We wish to merely ask: Has the world voiced its opinion on the choice Bush and his administration made for it? Or does the whole world not have the right to give its opinion on what Bush chose for it? Or is it that merely posing the question is not acceptable?

Rambo does not even accept merely the posing of the question. As for freedom, democracy, prosperity, security, stability, and progress, they are all brand names of U.S. cigarettes sold in the U.S. supermarket. The world goes to the supermarket, and if it has some money, it chooses either Marlboro or Kent; it chooses prosperity or freedom. This arrogance has no precedent. This is the maximum limit of dictatorship and the final end of fascism and the law of the jungle. If some of the big ones told the United States yes, then the Arabs have a background and history that qualifies them to say no. The Palestinians, the Iraqis, the Jordanians, the Yemenis, and all the Arabs, have a history that qualifies them to say no in the face of this ugly American, this U.S. bestiality, which for a period of half a century has been erasing from its mind any trace of the existence of the Palestinian people, who are daily putting up with all kinds of torture, homelessness, and expulsion. At the same time, it exerts all its bestiality and uses the destructive weapons at its disposal to defend a low price for petrol, no more. It uses all its terrorism to bring down the price of oil from \$30 per barrel to \$10 or \$15. It does not even remember the existence of the people of Palestine. It has no deterrent whatsoever regarding the annihilation of the people of Iraq or any other people who stand up to it.

We declare that we are against this U.S. bestiality; we declare that our people are opposed to this self-importance and scorn for all forms of values and any kind of morals. We and the people of Iraq and our Arab nation are ready to fight this fierce hyena and kill it, and kill its wanton Zionist ally. Victory is for our people and our nation.

Radio on Baker Visit to Damascus, Syrian Stance

JN1509200090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1845 GMT 15 Sep 90

["Reading Of The Political Situation" feature]

[Text] Brothers, it seems that the Americans take interest in exposing all those who share their stand. The game is now clear, and those who trade in politics in the region no longer have to show two or more faces.

Before the current crisis in the Gulf, it was possible for some people to say something and do another, to show what they did not really believe in, and to declare alliances and hide others out of fear of the Arab masses, whose position contradicts that of their rulers. Now, the Americans, before anyone else, are interested in making the difference crystal clear. They are also interested in uncovering the players and their true affiliations.

This is what U.S. Secretary of State James Baker demonstrated during his visit to Damascus yesterday. Baker has publicly asked Damascus to make its position identical to that of Washington. Baker also asked Damascus—and it immediately accepted—to increase its military contribution in the current comprehensive confrontation in the Gulf, which is led by the United States against the Arab nation. Baker also asked Damascus—and it immediately accepted—to employ its old ties with Iran to dissuade it from its decision to break the food and medical blockade imposed on Iraq and its people. Damascus, represented by its president, has moved without any hesitation to persuade the Iranian president to retreat from his distinguished position.

All this is taking place in public and is being declared by U.S. and Syrian officials. This is one of the important results brought about by the current confrontation. Everyone can be exposed now, and one can tell dark from light. That old black veil under which all colors are hidden can also be removed now. All of this has gone for good. Therefore, we say: Many heads will roll in this confrontation. Those heads have become ripe and it is about time to lop them off.

Any Alternative to Arab Solution Said 'Disaster'
JN1409185590 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: In the U.S. Congress, it is a different matter, for President Bush cannot tell them what he is selling us. This is because the Congress is the final judge, and all things must be clearly and unambiguously made known to them. Therefore, we have to examine thoroughly what the U.S. President said to Congress, because such statements not only illustrate the political trends of U.S. policy, but also reflect the fundamental guidelines and plans that U.S. policy has adopted for the next stage. Reading these statements carefully, therefore, is an essential matter so that the Arabs can put aside simple, emotional questions and move to the fundamental question, which is related to the fate of the whole region.

The U.S. President asserted that U.S. forces will remain in the region for a long time, while his Defense Secretary Cheney declared that U.S. deployment in the Gulf will continue until the capability of facing any contingency is guaranteed. Because such a capability of confrontation is purely subject to U.S. estimation, and because guaranteeing this capability needs time, which will be specified according to the view of the U.S. Administration, the

U.S. President's statement that U.S. forces will remain for a long time in the Gulf means, by all standards, that we are in an atmosphere of a permanent military U.S. occupation, the duration of which, the president has decided, will be for a long time to come without even making any reference to his readiness to respond to a decision, request, or the desire of any of the countries in the region during this period.

The president talked about U.S. interests and directly referred to oil and the amount of that oil controlled by Iraq, which amounts to 20 percent of international reserves. The U.S. President asserted that the United States cannot accept for all that amount to be under the control of a strong ruler, or Iraq. This means that the United States views matters from an angle completely different from the angle that Arab peoples and countries view things. The United States thinks our countries and rulers are merely guardians over oil who do not have the right to participate in a decision related to oil, and who do not have the freedom to act in accordance with the dictates of their interests.

This is a very serious situation which highlights the need for two actions on an urgent basis: Firstly, returning things to the Arab umbrella and adopting an Arab solution which places higher Arab interests above all other considerations, and puts an end to the imminent, fateful dangers looming on the horizon as a result of the U.S. invasion of the region. Secondly, beginning to lay down practical, serious arrangements for the evacuation of U.S. and foreign forces from the region—forces which began to consider their presence an issue related to their interests without considering the interests of the countries of the region, and which bragged that the duration of their presence is linked to their individual desires, which coincide with their interests. Regarding this issue, Bush made things very clear, and he cannot act otherwise before the U.S. Congress. He did not make any reference to his intention to respect the will, desire, or decision of any of the countries of the region about defining the duration or time of the withdrawal.

Bush has not closed the door to a military solution. In fact, we can say that the military solution as of this moment occupies a prominent position in the priorities of U.S. options, awaiting the right opportunity. Had things been different, that is, had the matter been related to a complete exclusion of the military option, Bush would have said it clearly before the Congress.

In the wake of these possible and imminent dangers stemming from U.S. acknowledgement of the occupation, the role of rational Arabs who can picture the disaster is needed. They should not urge the United States to start a war but should call for its noninterference and for the whole issue to be referred to Arabs. This alone represents the solution; any other consideration represents a disaster.

Palestinian-Run Paper Attacks PLO on Stand

NC1509134790 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT
15 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 15 (AFP)—A Palestinian-run newspaper in the United Arab Emirates launched a scathing attack Saturday [15 September] against the PLO's stand on the Gulf crisis, accusing the organisation of misleading the Palestinian people.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's "attitude toward the Gulf crisis is shameful and scandalous because it has nothing to do with principles," said Ghassan Tahbub, editor of the Arabic Al-Khalij newspaper, in a commentary.

Mr. Tahbub, a West Bank native formerly known for support of the PLO, said the organisation was "misleading Palestinians into believing that an end to (Iraq's) occupation of Kuwait could be linked to ending Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

Noting that the Palestinian cause received a "direct stab" from the Iraqi invasion, he accused PLO leader Yasir

'Arafat of straying from his long-held principle of keeping the Palestinian problem out of inter-Arab disputes.

Mr. 'Arafat, close to Iraq, refused to condemn the invasion of Kuwait and has criticised the Western military build-up in the Gulf. He has urged a solution encompassing all Middle East issues, including the Palestinian problem.

"How does 'Arafat justify his failure to condemn the invasion and occupation of Kuwait at a time when international legitimacy is considered one of the most effective tools of the Palestinian struggle?" Mr. Tahbub asked.

He accused the PLO leadership of terrorizing "anyone who tries to object to its policy... to criticise (its) practices... or serve the Palestinian cause by donating money independently of the PLO."

The 700,000 Palestinians in the Gulf, who provide the PLO with some 50 million dollars a year in taxes, fear Mr. 'Arafat's stand on the crisis could prompt states in the region to expel them.

Qatar has already expelled two Palestinian diplomats and the PLO has accused it of forcing dozens of other Palestinians to leave.

Algeria

Moroccan Envoy Delivers Message to President

LD1609145490 Algiers APS in Arabic 1430 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 16 Sep (APS)—Reza Guedira, the private adviser of King Hassan II of Morocco, said today following his meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid at the republican palace that he has conveyed a verbal message to the Algerian president from King Hassan II.

With regard to the content of the message, Guedira said that it deals mainly with matters and questions of common interest headed by bilateral and Maghreb issues, particularly the two countries' attitude toward the Gulf crisis of which we are aware.

Guedira added: As Arab countries, we are greatly concerned about events in the fraternal countries in the Middle East and the Gulf. We wish all success and victory but without any of our Arab and Islamic peoples' suffering any harm.

President Bendjedid Receives Bachir Boumaza

LD1609121590 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 16 Sep (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid received Bachir Boumaza who came back from Baghdad where he met President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi leaders.

FLN Political Bureau Proposes Assessment Body

LD1609093790 Algiers APS in Arabic 0845 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 16 Sep (APS)—In an document published yesterday, the FLN [National Liberation Front] Political Bureau proposed forming a national committee for assessing the development experience.

The document added: The great changes in our country demand consultations and cooperation between the political parties in order to preserve the safety of the democratic course and direct the competition between the parties exclusively to the service of the people and the higher interests of the country.

The Political Bureau pointed out that the assessment of the Algerian experience during the past quarter century is a patriotic duty which requires such consultations because an objective assessment of the past will clarify future tasks and will light the way to well-guided political action.

The FLN considers: "A difference of opinions on the development experience is natural. However, the conditions under which the country moved from a single-party system to a multiparty system did not encourage conducting a thorough objective assessment of that experience which would motivate a realistic thinking of future solutions."

Consequently, the FLN Political Bureau proposes the setting up of a national committee through consultations between parties. This committee, which should include capable and trusted personalities, will be in charge of assessing the development experience and the strong points and weak points in it. The results of the committee's work should not be binding for the parties and bodies which agree on its formation.

The nature of such an action will show the real problems facing our country. It will improve the level of political dialogue concerning these problems, and make the people's choices clearer, which will enhance democratic practice.

The FLN believes, on the other hand, that such an action will consolidate the people's confidence in the democratic solutions for existing problems; it will reassure workers in all sectors of national activity that their efforts are not in vain, and that the difficulties faced by our country can be overcome by hard work and fair competition and the service of the people.

In conclusion, the FLN wishes that you [political parties] will give this proposal the attention it deserves, and that your study of it will lead to more contacts and consultations to put this (?proposal) into practice.

Egypt

Japanese Embassy Issues Statement on Loan

NC1409184290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1754 GMT
14 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—The Japanese Embassy in Cairo today issued a statement saying that the economic assistance approved by the Japanese Government to some of the countries harmed by the Iraqi invasion to Kuwait include \$600 million [figure as received] in urgent loans to finance the purchase of commodity supplies.

The statement says that the countries entitled to these loans include Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey. The loans are provided on easy terms with a one-percent interest rate and a 30-year repayment period. The statement notes that the Japanese Government will define the procedure for providing this additional assistance and its shape and content.

'Abd-al-Majid Leaves Hospital 14 Sep

NC1409141990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT
14 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 14 Sep (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left al-Muwasah Hospital this afternoon after spending a week being treated for the car accident in which he was involved. Director of the hospital Dr. Muhammad al-Banna said that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's condition is extremely reassuring and that he performed his duties while in hospital. [passage omitted]

Belgian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

NC1509072390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT
15 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep. (MENA)—Mark Eyskens, Belgian minister of foreign relations, arrived here early this morning on a two-day visit to Egypt during which he will meet with President Hosni Mubarak. The Belgian minister will discuss the developments in the Gulf crisis with Egyptian officials.

The Belgian government has sent two planes to help transfer Egyptian returnees from Iraq and Kuwait who are transiting Jordan. The Belgian government has decided to keep the two planes in operation for two more weeks.

Discusses Ties, Gulf With Ghali

NC1609071690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2024 GMT
15 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens this evening. The Belgian minister arrived in Cairo for a two-day visit earlier today.

The talks dealt with recent developments in the Gulf and showed that the two countries' views are identical, particularly with regard to their firm commitment to international legitimacy as represented by the UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis. They also welcomed the joint communique issued after the recent Helsinki summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The two ministers agreed on the need to continue making intensive diplomatic efforts to contain the crisis and settle it by peaceful means in order to prevent a break out of violence. Egypt and Belgium agreed on the need to strengthen ties between the European and Mediterranean countries and forge a security and cooperation link between them. [passage omitted]

Received by Mubarak

NC1609083490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Alexandria, 16 Sep (MENA)—President Hosni Mubarak this morning received Mark Eyskens, Belgian minister of foreign relations, at Ra's al-Tin palace in Alexandria. Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, was also present.

Comments After Meeting

NC1609100890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak received Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens this morning. Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Belgian ambassador in Cairo attended the meeting.

In a statement after the meeting, the Belgian minister said the main purpose of his visit to Egypt is to listen to President Mubarak's views on the Gulf crisis, to hold talks with officials in Egypt, and to inform President Mubarak and the Egyptian officials of how appreciative Belgium is of the role Egypt is playing in the current crisis. The Belgian foreign minister said his country has exerted major efforts through the international community so that Iraq might respect the international rights it violated by carrying out its act of aggression against Kuwait.

Regarding the Belgian contribution in the face of the Gulf crisis, Eyskens said Belgium is in solidarity with the other countries and has sent three ships to the area and put two military aircraft at Egypt's disposal. The aircraft transferred from Jordan 3,600 Egyptians returning from Iraq and Kuwait. The Belgian minister added that his country will also contribute to the approximately \$2 billion in financial assistance which the EC will provide to the countries affected by the crisis. The cost of this assistance will be shared by the EC members. In addition, Belgium will extend to Egypt an urgent shipment of 20,000 tons of wheat, in appreciation of the Egyptian role in the Gulf crisis.

Asked if he believes the attack against various embassies constitutes an act of war that requires an answer, the Belgian foreign minister said the attack against the embassies is a very serious act. Belgium, he added, has two diplomats in Kuwait who are working under extremely difficult circumstances, and it will discuss with the EC members in Brussels tomorrow the adoption of measures against Iraqi diplomats. He stressed that this new Iraqi violation of international rights and of the Vienna Convention constitutes an unacceptable breach of the principles of world community.

President Mubarak also received the Zairian foreign minister in the presence of Dr. Ghali and the Zairian ambassador in Cairo.

Speaking after the session, the Zairian minister said he had handed President Mubarak a message from his brother and friend Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko on the situation in the Gulf. He added that he will leave for Saudi Arabia to deliver a similar message to Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Belgian Defense Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC1709052190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—Belgian Defense Minister Guy Coeure arrived in Cairo from Jordan this evening on an official two-day visit to Egypt.

A round of military talks will be held between Egypt and Belgium at the Defense Ministry tomorrow morning. The Egyptians will be led by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, while the Belgians will be headed by Defense Minister Coeure. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks on Military, Comments

NC1709105590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT
17 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Military talks between Egypt and Belgium were held this morning at the Defense Ministry offices. The Egyptian side was headed by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and military production. Belgian Defense Minister Guy Coeme led his country's delegation to the talks.

Attending the talks on the Egyptian side were Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Ahmad Nasr and Major General Hitler al-Tantawi, secretary-general of the Defense Ministry. Members of the delegation accompanying the defense minister as well the Belgian ambassador to Cairo attended the session.

Following the one-hour session, the Belgian defense minister said that his country is satisfied with the courageous policy of President Husni Mubarak as well as the international consensus that formed during the Gulf crisis. We share with Egypt the same belief that Iraqi aggression should be thwarted and that freedom and human rights should be defended, he added.

The Belgian defense minister said that his visit to Egypt aims at consolidating the friendship between the two countries. He noted that he will visit Egypt again in November to continue talks on bilateral military cooperation.

The Belgian defense minister said that his visit follows a request by the Egyptian Government for more planes to transport the Egyptians returning from Iraq and Kuwait. He added that his country is pleased to be able to help Egypt or any country in the world.

Coeme said that he will go to France tonight on an invitation from President Francois Mitterrand to discuss the developments in the Gulf with representatives of other European governments.

Asked about the Iraqi attacks on embassies in Kuwait, the Belgian minister said that as soon as his country verifies these reports it will take suitable action.

The Belgian defense minister said that he was touched by the feelings of the ordinary Egyptians toward his country. One of these ordinary Egyptians who was harmed by the Iraqi aggression was on the same plane with the minister when he flew from Amman to Cairo, and he handed him a note on a scrap of paper saying: Egypt loves Belgium. These were simple words but had great meaning to me, and I say in return: Belgium loves Egypt too, the Belgian minister said.

For his part, Gen. Abu-Talib praised the cooperation between the two countries. He expressed Egypt's gratitude for Belgian assistance in transporting 5,600 Egyptians as part of the airlift in which 265,000 Egyptians who left Iraq and Kuwait were transported home.

Asked about the dispatch of additional Egyptian forces to the Gulf region, Gen. Abu-Talib said that president Mubarak has announced that already and that additional troops will be sent to the Gulf.

Concerning the role of the Egyptian troops in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Abu-Talib said that the Egyptian forces will remain a strong bulwark to all Arab countries. He noted that cooperation with the UAE encompasses several domains, including training and the exchange of expertise. He said that Egyptian troops are in the UAE to assist and boost the defensive abilities of that country.

Zairian Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC1509211190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2008 GMT
15 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Zairian Foreign Minister Mushobekwa Kalimba wa Katana arrived in Cairo on board a private plane this evening to visit for several days. He stated that he is carrying a written message for President Husni Mubarak from Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko. Muhammad Sulayman, director of the Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry, received him at the airport.

Received by Mubarak

NC1609083390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Alexandria, 16 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received Zairian Foreign Minister Mushobekwa Kalimba Wa Katana at Ra's al-Tin palace in Alexandria. The meeting was attended by Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Zairian ambassador in Cairo.

The Zairian foreign minister arrived in Cairo last night on a visit to Egypt that will last for a few days.

Departs for Riyadh

NC1709110990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0729 GMT
17 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—Zairian Foreign Minister Mushobekwa Kalimba Wa Katana left Cairo this morning for Riyadh at the end of a three-day visit to Egypt during which he handed a written message to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak from Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Speaking at the airport before his departure, the Zairian minister said that his country stands by Egypt and is committed to the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait.

The Zairian minister said that he will hand messages from President Sese Seko to Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait.

Ministers Return With Saudi Financial Agreements*NC1409205990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT
14 Sep 90*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, and Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz, returned tonight from Jeddah following a four-day visit to Saudi Arabia. In an arrival statement, Dr. 'Ubayd said that the visit he and Dr. al-Razzaz paid to Saudi Arabia has produced positive results, most importantly, the agreement of the Saudi Investment Fund to finance the projects submitted by Egypt to the fund.

Dr. 'Ubayd said that the Gulf Foundation for the Development of Egypt will hold a meeting to consider an Egyptian Government proposal to use foundation funds to accelerate the creation of new jobs in Egypt. Dr. 'Ubayd noted that Egyptian and Saudi companies will sign a balanced trade agreement to meet Egypt's needs for sulfur and other minerals. A Saudi delegation is expected to arrive tomorrow, Saturday, to conclude that deal.

Dr. 'Ubayd said that Saudi officials have invited a delegation of Egyptian businessmen to visit the Kingdom to examine trade prospects with Saudi Arabia. Dr. 'Ubayd noted that the Islamic Bank for Development has agreed to finance all the projects submitted by the Egyptian side.

Envoy Haybah Returns, Comments on African Tour*NC1509065690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2001 GMT
14 Sep 90*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Ambassador Sami Haybah returned to Cairo tonight following a tour of Arab and African countries during which he delivered messages from President Mubarak to the presidents of Kenya, Mauritius, Madagascar, Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

In an arrival statement, Ambassador Haybah said that the tour was in the context of ongoing consultations between Egypt and these countries concerning the developments in the Gulf as well as bilateral relations.

Haybah said that while in Somalia he held talks concerning the security and stability of that country as well as national reconciliation there. Somalia, he said, welcomed an Egyptian role in bringing about national reconciliation between the government and the opposition fronts in that country, a matter that may help promote stability and peace there.

Storming of Embassies in Kuwait Condemned*NC1509114390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT
15 Sep 90*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—A responsible source at the foreign ministry said today that the storming of the French and other Western embassies in Kuwait by Iraqi

troops constitutes an arbitrary and extremely grave measure. This measure, the source added, represents a blatant violation of the provisions and terms of the Vienna agreement on diplomatic immunity and privileges.

In a press statement today, the source maintained that the Egyptian authorities strongly denounce and condemn this irresponsible behavior which constitutes an act of excessiveness and which, under no circumstances, should govern international and diplomatic relations.

Paper on Iraq's Possession of Nuclear Arms*NC1509071590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2156 GMT
14 Sep 90*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—In a commentary in its tomorrow's edition, Saturday, the newspaper AL-AHRAM calls on world countries to adopt the call by President Husni Mubarak to eliminate the weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East, chiefly the nuclear and chemical weapons owned by Israel or any other country in the region.

Under the title "Iraqi Nuclear Bombs," the paper says the Egyptian call for the elimination of such weapons underscores Egypt's responsibility as a leading country for the peace and safety of the region's nations, Arab as well as Israel.

The paper says that the call is particularly important in view of recent reports that Iraq now has in its possession six crude bombs, having previously acquired the enriched uranium needed for their manufacture from various sources, chief of which are France and Brazil. If true, these reports must be seen as a serious warning to the countries of the civilized world and to anyone interested in the future of mankind, the paper writes.

The paper asks: With the end of the cold war, is this not the right time for the two superpowers to agree on a comprehensive and final elimination of the weapons of total destruction which they possess, within the framework of an international initiative to eliminate weapons of total destruction from the entire world in order to protect the future of the human race?

Muslim Brotherhood Stresses Rejection of Invasion*JN1409165490 Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic
5 Sep 90 p 4*

[Text] Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood, has affirmed that what appears to be currently taking place in the Gulf region is the protecting of oil and securing of its continued flow to the West, when in reality it is a fight against Islamic renaissance and reawakening. He affirmed that one of the most important objectives of this crisis is to cover up for Zionist terrorism against the citizens in occupied Palestine and the sufferings of the sons of the blessed intifadah at the hands of the Zionists. The controller general said that with its policy in the region, the United

States is committing major crimes against the Muslim people, who should be aware of this.

On the Muslim Brotherhood's stand on the crisis, the controller general said: The Muslim Brotherhood has explicitly stated its stand rejecting the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and denouncing the foreign forces' presence in the region. He added: The Muslim brothers have repeatedly announced their position in newspapers, magazines, and meetings; and even to the Iraqi ambassador when he visited our headquarters; and to the Kuwaiti minister of state when he paid a similar visit.

On the position adopted by the Muslim brothers abroad, particularly the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood, the controller general said that all the brothers abroad are committed to the stand of their group. He added that the Muslim Brotherhood's position on any issue is adopted only after a thorough study of all its aspects, and the opinion of experts in the various fields is always sought.

In response to a question on whether the Muslim brothers will undertake an initiative to settle the crisis, the controller general said that the question of an initiative is under discussion. He said: If there is a 10 percent chance, we will submit our initiative.

This was stated during the controller general's meeting with a group of Muslim brothers as part of the meetings being held to become familiar with the leadership's stand on the current developments.

Islamists Address Bani Suwayf Rally on Gulf

JN1509172690 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
4 Sep 90 p 5

[Report by Qutub al-'Arabi]

[Text] Let us turn our land into a tomb for the U.S. colonialists. No place for the Americans. No to America. Death to America. You will see O Jews, the army of Muhammad will return. These were some of the slogans that were chanted in Bani Suwayf last Wednesday [29 August] in the first political rally to discuss Gulf developments and the U.S. invasion of the region. The rally was organized by the Islamic group and was attended by over 5,000 people. Addressing the rally, Shaykh Ahmad Yusuf, an Islamic leader in Bani Suwayf, said: What the Islamic nation is passing through now confirms God's unchanging universal laws: "God sets forth a parable: a city enjoying security and quiet, abundantly supplied with sustenance from every place; yet was it ungrateful for the favors of God: So God made it taste of hunger and terror in extremes closing in on it like a garment from every side, because of the evil which its people wrought." [Koranic verse] This example applies to any country that shows ingratitude for the favors of God. Those who squander money and give it to the enemies of Muslims must have their sense of security turn into terror and their sufficiency into hunger.

He said: We are not with Iraq, but the United States is driving its claws into the flesh of Muslims. Does the United States, with its permanent rancor against Islam, come to defend the land of Islam? This is amazing; Israel defends Jerusalem and the United States defends Mecca and the prophet's tomb. That is how our affairs turned after we gave Jerusalem up to the Jews and now we are giving up the Kaaba of God and the tomb of the chosen prophet. What is happening today is extremely serious. It is a Western occupation of the best spot of the earth of God; of the holy land of God and the richest spot on earth. It is the source of oil which constitutes the lifeline of Europe and America. He who allows the presence of those colonialists is a betrayer of his religion and nation.

Ahmad Yusuf asked: If America is now using the pretext of the takeover of Kuwait, where was it when Israel invaded Palestine, southern Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip? What we are afraid of today is that as soon as one of its agents or a leader stops revolving in its orbit, America comes with all its weapons to snatch the best spot on earth. The presence of America, Britain, France, Russia, and the world East and West is a tragedy and a grave danger to this nation. Now they are saying they were brought because of Saddam's invasion of Kuwait. We are not with Saddam. We are with Islam. We know Saddam has a record of killing Muslims and attacking them with gases. He is a Ba'thist nationalist, and we are Muslims. We do not term Iraq's takeover of Kuwait an occupation because these borders have been drawn by the colonialists. We are not drawing parallels between Saddam and al-Sabah; all are alike; all are hollow except for those who observe their religion.

Ahmad Yusuf said: Saddam Husayn declares that he adheres to Islam. This will remain a baseless claim unless he confirms it with action and restores to the Muslim Kuwaiti people their rights. If he confirms what he says with action, then Islam welcomes anyone. Ahmad Yusuf declared that what was happening now had nothing to do with Islam, because all parties were not fighting as part of jihad to raise high the word of God. Therefore, there is no place for religious rulings. He advised Muslim scholars not to interfere in what is happening and not to get involved in it because the rulers do not care about scholars.

He said had the rulers had any respect for the views of jurisprudents, they would have consulted them before requesting the intervention of foreign forces, not afterward. He asked: If your religious rulings call for the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, what benefit will this bring to Islam?

Ahmad Yusuf stated that the solution lies in the return to Islam as an unparalleled force. If America derives its power from its sophisticated weapons, we derive our strength from God, Yusuf concluded.

Islamic preacher 'Abd-al-Fattah Famhi addressed the rally. He reviewed the history of plots against the Islamic nation. He said Muslims, with the power of their faith, have faced the armies of infidels in many battles,

including the battle of Badr, the battle with the Medina Jews, the conquest of Mecca, the Mu'tah battle, the conquest of Constantinople, the Hittin battle under Salah al-Din, and then the advance into Africa, conquering most parts of the world until they reached Vienna, Hungary, France, Asia Minor. The Muslims also triumphed in the 'Ayn Jalut, al-Yarmuk, al-Qadisiyah, and Nahavend battles. But when Muslims' faith weakened, they were vanquished by their enemies. The outcome was defeats; setbacks; poverty; slavery; cultural, political, and economic subordination; division; fragmentation; squandering of wealth; colonialism; and plotting by the enemies against our Islamic nation. They have tried to divide our nation since Napoleon's invasion of Egypt.

He also touched on the United States' black history in the region where it presided over the killing of 12 million of the oppressed. He noted that there are 175,000 firms that sell \$200 billion worth of arms annually, and that Henry Kissinger set up the International Atomic Energy Agency with a view to destroying OPEC which comprises a number of Islamic nations. He emphasized that the United States was the principal backer of Israel in all its wars against us. He said the United States has had plans to invade the Gulf dating back to a 1975 plan drawn up by the Pentagon to take over such Islamic oil-producing countries as Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Algeria. He also pointed to the Reagan doctrine envisioning the creation of a rapid deployment force to march into the Islamic orient at will, and lastly, Richard Cheney's remark that the United States plans to stay in the region for several years—an intention borne out by the construction of a water desalination plant and jetties to accommodate military and merchant supply vessels.

He stressed that with his Ba'thist ideology, Saddam Husayn lacks the right credentials to fight a world struggle against the world forces of arrogance on behalf of Islam and Muslims, not least since he allows for the spread of sin and corruption, and since he has set about antagonizing Arabs and Muslims with the result that his forces are now stretched thin. Furthermore, he has allowed the commission of such objectionable acts as rape, robbery, and murder in Kuwait.

From an Islamic perspective, Saddam should restore the rights of the Muslim Kuwaiti people. He reiterated that the United States came to the region to stay, citing a 1975 Pentagon plan and the Reagan plan to conquer the region, Richard Cheney's remark that his forces are here to stay, the structural makeup of the rapid deployment force, and the building of U.S. support units in the region. The United States, he added, is not contemplating war with Iraq given the latter's arsenal of biological and chemical weaponry and its possession of the means to trounce Israel, Iraq being the fourth world power. He also cited the worldwide terrorist war against U.S. and Western interests, suicide operations against the U.S. Navy, as well as the blowing up of oil fields and installations, noting that it will not be possible to make them foolproof against attack and that in such a scenario

the result will be a collapse of Western civilization. He also noted that Iraq has a large number of hostages.

Thus, the United States did not come here to fight but came with a charade to colonize the region and promote a number of strategic objectives, led by Greater Israel, by emptying the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and southern Lebanon of Arabs and supplanting them with Jews, ahead of marching into Jordan.

Second, to evict Syria from Lebanon and entrench agent Michel 'Awn to pave the way for American colonization.

Third, to help Garang march into Sudan and subdue Muslims and control the Nile source.

Fourth, to drain the Islamic region's resources through wars and armament programs to sustain American arms manufacturers and merchants.

Fifth, to engineer coups against all anti-American rulers in the East, including Saddam Husayn, this being the only way to get rid of him.

Sixth, to control oil—the lifeline of the West—as 1992, the date set for European unity, draws closer and which in itself poses a threat to the United States.

Seventh, and most importantly, to reverse an Islamic resurgence which began in Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, Iran, and Egypt. The United States came to the region to turn it away from religion following the example of Turkey's Ataturk. The only hope lies in the nation's reverting to its religion and the way of God to draw from them strength and honor. Hasten ye then to God. I am from him a warner to you, clear and open. [Koranic verse]

The American flag was burned at the end of the conference, and participants stood chanting anti-American and anti-West slogans.

Court Acquits All 48 Defendants in Riots Trial

*NC1509164390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT
15 Sep 90*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—The State Supreme Security Court today acquitted all 48 defendants accused in the al-Fayyum riots case. Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman was among the defendants.

The court based its judgment on the lack of evidence against the defendants and the witnesses' conflicting statements.

The public prosecutor had referred the defendants to court and called for their punishment for participation in the al-Fayyum riots, which resulted in the destruction of public and private property. The defendants were also accused of illegally gathering and of attacking policemen in al-Fayyum.

Chinese Petroleum Delegation Arrives for Visit

NC1609071990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0634 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—Sun Renyi, Chinese vice minister of petroleum and mineral resources [title as received], arrived here this morning leading a delegation on a 10-day visit to Egypt during which he will meet with 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources.

During the visit, the Chinese delegation will discuss contracts for the exploration of metals and ores in the Egyptian deserts and will make field trips to the Sinai, the Geological Survey Authority, the Institute for Petroleum Research, and one of the oil refineries in Egypt. The Chinese delegation was received at the airport by Engineer Hasab-al-Nabi 'Asal, under secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum.

Crude Oil Prices Increased by \$3 on 17 Sep

NC1709115690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT
17 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, issued a decision today increasing Egyptian crude oil prices by three dollars per barrel. The new price is in line with the sudden increase in oil prices on the world market.

The new prices are effective today, 17 September, and remain so until further notice. The prices are as follows: Khalij al-Zayt and Ra's al-Bihar crude—\$32.30 per barrel; Suez Gulf crude—\$32.00 per barrel; Bala'im crude—\$31.15 per barrel; Badran crude—\$30.00 per barrel; and, Gharib crude—\$29.70 per barrel.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Moroccan Interior Minister

LD1509204490 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Driss Basri, the minister of interior and information in fraternal Morocco, and a personal envoy of Moroccan King Hassan II.

The personal envoy conveyed a message from Moroccan King Hassan II to the brother leader. Driss Basri arrived in the great Jamahiriya today.

Foreign Secretary Receives Tunisian Official

LD1509154890 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] The Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation this morning received the brother general commissioner of the fraternal Republic of Tunisia to the great Jamahiriya.

The current Arab situation, bilateral relations, and the Arab Maghreb Union process were reviewed during this meeting. The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation expressed the great Jamahiriya's great appreciation for the contents of the statement made by brother Habib Boulares, the minister of foreign affairs in fraternal Tunisia, before the Tunisian House of Representatives at its latest emergency session.

Colonel Al-Kharrubi Concludes Arab Tour

LD1409172990 Tripoli JANA in English 1610 GMT
14 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Fateh [September] 14, Jamahiriya News Agency—Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi concluded yesterday his tour visiting Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and Egypt handing the kings and presidents of these Arab countries the Libyan initiative announced by the leader of the revolution for solving the Gulf crisis.

These heads of state announced during their meeting with Col al-Kharrubi their appreciation and regards for the pan-Arab efforts made by the leader of the revolution for the cause of the Arab nation.

Morocco

Senegal Defense Minister Arrives With Message

LD1509153290 Rabat MAP in English 1407 GMT
15 Sep 90

[Text] Rabat, Sept 15, (MAP)—Senegalese Defense Minister Medoune Fall arrived Saturday [15 September] afternoon in Rabat with a message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf to King Hassan II of Morocco.

In an arrival statement, Fall said his visit was part of the consultations and exchanges of viewpoints between the sovereign and President Diouf.

The visit, he added, aims at unifying steps of the two countries regarding the Gulf crisis.

Senegal decided earlier to dispatch a military contingent to the Saudi Kingdom. The contingent is to leave Dakar next Monday [17 September].

Meets With King Hassan

LD1609082190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II—may God grant him victory—received yesterday evening in the royal palace in Skhirat the Senegalese armed forces minister, Mr. Medoune Fall, who handed his majesty the King a message from the Senegalese president, Abdou Diouf. [passage omitted]

Istiqlal Party Urges Arab Mediation in Gulf*LD1409152690 Rabat MAP in English 1351 GMT
14 Sep 90*

[Text] Rabat, Sept. 14 (MAP)—The parliamentary group of the Istiqlal party said the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was against provisions of the UN and Arab League charters, expressing on the same occasion its "rejection of the foreign and colonialist naval presence in the Gulf waters because of the dangers this presence poses to the Arabs and the holy shrines of Islam. [no closing quotation marks as received]

In a communique released at the end of a meeting held recently in Berkane (northeastern Morocco) the Istiqlal group expressed deep concern at the recent development in the Gulf situation.

The communique called for mobilization of good will to avoid the break-out of a war, the effects of which will extend beyond the Gulf region. It also called for a solution within an Arab framework and invited Maghreb leaders to adopt a common position towards the crisis with a view to playing a positive mediation role.

Sudan**OAU Secretary-General Meets RCC's Khalifah***EA1309084890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 12 Sep 90*

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and head of the peace department, this morning received in his office, at the Friendship Hall, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the OAU secretary-general, who is currently visiting Sudan. After the meeting Col. Khalifah said that he had discussed with Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim African issues in general, as well as the intensive efforts being made by the Sudanese Government to achieve peace in the country. Sudan's relationship with the OAU and questions concerning the national conference for dialogue on a political system were also discussed. Col. Khalifah confirmed Sudan's commitment to the principle of dialogue in solving international problems.

The two sides also discussed the hostile activity by some (?critics) of Sudan inside the OAU. Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim stressed the need to achieve a useful solution to this question through consultation with the OAU Secretariat.

Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC, will tomorrow morning receive in his office, at the Republican Palace, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the OAU secretary general, to discuss issues concerning Sudan and the organization.

Meets RCC's Brigadier Kassiano*EA1409082090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 13 Sep 90*

[Text] Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], this morning met in his office at the Republican Palace Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the OAU secretary general, with whom he discussed the government's efforts to establish peace in the south. [passage indistinct].

Comments on OAU Position*EA1509075190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 14 Sep 90*

[Text] Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the OAU secretary general, has confirmed the organization's keenness to solve the problem of the south and its support for the efforts being made by the National Salvation Revolution to solve the problem through dialogue.

In a press conference yesterday at the Hilton Hotel in Khartoum, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim said that during his meetings with the chairman and members of the Revolution Command Council and members of the National Dialogue Conference, he had acquainted himself with the intensive efforts being exerted by Sudan to end the problem. They had also discussed African economic issues and the situation in southern Africa. He said he had also discussed with the officials the issue of refugees in the country and the role being played by Sudan in this respect.

Asked as to whether the organization was currently engaged in undertaking a new initiative to solve the problem of the south, Mr. Salim said his meetings with the officials had given him the opportunity to acquaint himself with the internal conditions, affirming his confidence in what the officials had informed him about the problem. He also reaffirmed the OAU's support for the principle of peaceful dialogue being pursued by the revolution in this respect. He declared that his visit had been made to give impetus to the peace efforts in Sudan and to establish what the organization could do in this respect.

On the Gulf crisis, he declared that any discord in the Arab world affected Africa.

On developments in Liberia, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim said the organization supported the dispatch of African forces to preserve peace there, explaining that the organization was striving to shelter the refugees of Africa.

Describes 'Fruitful' Talks*EA1509085990 Khartoum SUNA in English 0938 GMT
14 Sep 90*

[Text] Khartoum, 14th September (SUNA)—OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim has said that the Sudanese Government has affirmed to him that the Sudan enjoys religious tolerance, contrary to rumours in this regard. Speaking at a press conference here at the

end of his visit to Sudan yesterday, Salim noted that he himself has Sudanese friends who belong to different racial and religious backgrounds.

Salim described his talks with Sudanese officials during his visit to Sudan as "fruitful", saying that the talks have been frank and clear. He added that the talks he had conducted with the chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, and other RCC members underscored the efforts being exerted by the government for a peaceful solution to southern Sudan question. He pointed out that all Sudanese officials he met had assured him of the government's willingness to find solution for the south problem through peaceful negotiations.

Salim, pointing to the existence of thousands of refugees in Sudan, said the OAU would urge the international community to extend assistance to Sudan to help it shoulder the burden of refugees. He said the OAU would consider Sudan's protest over the presence of Mansur Khalid as an observer at the organisation, representing U.N. Environment Programme. It is to be recalled that Mansur Khalid is one of the leaders of Garang's movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Army]

Sudan Denies Receiving Poison Gas From Iraq

EA1509223090 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 15 September (SUNA)—The [word indistinct] security source denied a report published in London by the OBSERVER on 12 August, quoting the Egyptian newspaper AL-WAFD, that Iraq had supplied Sudan with poison gas. The source stated that the information was part of the plot [words indistinct] published by some anti-Sudanese media, and that the Egyptian paper AL-WAFD was playing a leading role in this plot [words indistinct]. The source added in a press statement that these information [word indistinct] had earlier circulated reports that Iraqi jet fighters had arrived at Sawakin [60 miles south of Port Sudan] in a cheap attempt to cause animosity between Sudan and the fraternal and friendly countries and in an attempt to (?affect) Sudan's decision.

Opposition Leader Justifies Gulf Crisis Stance

PM1309134190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Sep 90 p 7

[Interview with Mubarak al-Mahdi, member of the Ummah Party Politburo and former interior minister in Sudan, by al-Sir Sayyid Ahmad in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ahmad] Some people believe that you adopted a position different from the [Sudanese] government's position on the Gulf crisis to secure a political gain? What is your opinion?

[Al-Mahdi] First of all, it must be pointed out that our position in support of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait preceded the al-Bashir government position announced at the Arab foreign ministers' meeting. The Ummah Party expressed its position to the Saudi and Kuwaiti ambassadors in Khartoum immediately after the invasion. Then we supported that position with our cables to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz and Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. Our position is based on our rejection of aggression, and this proceeds from our Islamic principles and respect for international charters. Besides, our relations with the Kingdom and Kuwait are historical and staunch, as the two states have stood by Sudan in all the crises it has experienced and contributed to the process of development and building. And there are large numbers of Sudanese people in the two states. And historically, Sudan had a military force which defended Kuwait against 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim's threats. At the pan-Arab level, we believe there is a need to unite the Arab nation's capabilities to confront its enemies. The occupation of Kuwait and its annexation to Iraq by force weaken the Arab logic in Palestine.

[Ahmad] But the government says that by adopting such a position it is confirming its decisionmaking independence, which can help it mediate and search for a solution within an Arab framework.

[Al-Mahdi] The al-Bashir government is the government of the [National] Islamic Front, formerly the Muslim Brotherhood. It has adopted a biased position in order to be a party to the conflict in accordance with the following logic: The Kingdom and Kuwait adopted a reserved position with regard to supporting the regime in Khartoum because of its isolation and reliance on a small fundamentalist group. Whereas Iraq continued to provide military aid. And in view of the contradiction between the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Sudan and the secular regime in Iraq, the bias of the Islamic Front government represents a marriage of convenience between the two regimes. It is part of a regional Muslim Brotherhood scheme run by a number of Islamic movements in Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, and Tunisia. That position ignored Sudan's interests, historical relations with the Gulf region, and its principled stances on the Yemen war, the past conflict between Kuwait and Iraq, and the 1967 Khartoum Arab summit. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Do you believe—and you were in power in the past—that the government's position can be justified in view of the military aid provided by Iraq to confront the war in the South?

[Al-Mahdi] I cannot find any justification whatsoever. The al-Sadiq al-Mahdi government adopted a neutral position on the Iraq-Iran war and mediated between the two parties, one of which is non-Arab, despite the fact that it was receiving military aid from Iraq at the time. If matters are judged by interests, the Sudanese people's interests lie in the Gulf region, where over 1 million Sudanese people work. Their annual income is six times

the value of [Sudanese] exports. Besides, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait finance many development projects. [passage omitted]

DPRK Delegation Departs After Three-Day Visit

EA1409141290 Khartoum SUNA in French 0905 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Sep (SUNA)—Revolution Command Council Chairman [RCC] General 'Umar al-Bashir yesterday received at the presidential palace in Khartoum the DPRK delegation led by the under secretary of the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs who delivered to him a verbal message from President Kim Il-sung on bilateral relations and means of developing them further in various fields. The head of the DPRK delegation said the talks also centered on the strengthening of the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. He wished progress and prosperity to the Sudanese people under President al-Bashir's leadership. Meanwhile, the DPRK delegation left Khartoum yesterday for home after a three-day official visit during which it held talks with Sudanese officials on the strengthening of friendly relations and bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Libyan Delegation Visits Military College

EA1509083290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 13th September (SUNA)—Yesterday, the delegation of the Command and Staff College in the sisterly Libyan Jamahiriya, which is currently visiting the country, visited the Sudanese military college accompanied by Staff Major General Salah Muhammad Salih, director of the [word indistinct] and staff college, and Staff Colonel Haydar 'Abd al-Karim Judah. The visit comes within the framework of strengthening the brotherly relations binding the two brotherly peoples. Staff Colonel Tahir Mahdi reaffirmed the Libyan Command and Staff College's readiness to support the Sudanese military colleges until the completion of visualizing [word indistinct] the commands in the two nations for serving the issues of the Arab masses.

Colonel Khalifah on Efforts To Restore Peace

EA1309081690 Khartoum SUNA in English 0905 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 12th September (SUNA)—Col Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], said efforts are still going on to bring about peace in the country. Col Khalifah, head of the peace and foreign affairs committee at the council, said efforts are being deployed on both internal and external levels for creating a healthy atmosphere for peace talks with the rebels. Col Khalifah told SUNA that Sudanese ambassadors in Western countries are currently embarked on preparing ground for peace talks within the framework of the recommendations made by the national dialogue conference on peace

issues. He pointed out to the efforts exerted on the internal front by southern Sudanese for achieving peace in the Sudan.

On the other hand, Col Khalifah has addressed the committee of peace and foreign affairs on the developments of the Gulf crisis and the efforts deployed to find out peaceful solution for the question.

SPLA Urges Yei Commander's Retreat to Zaire

EA1509080590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Remnants of the enemy convoy codenamed Harb al-Sugur [war of the hawks], which is returning back to Juba after failing its mission to rescue Yei, arrived Juba yesterday.

Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] announced earlier that the convoy was given free passage in a situation that they satisfy the conditions laid down by the SPLA for their withdrawal back to Juba. This was the case on Wednesday, 12 September 1990, and the SPLA honored its word and allowed the convoy to go to (Jabal al-Kujur) near Juba without being fought.

The Bright Star campaign commander here again warns the soldiers in Juba not to accept again such adventurous National Islamic Front [NIF] missions like going to Yei. It is to be recalled that the Bright Star campaign commander had warned Abtal Juba [heroes of Juba] convoy before they left Juba that they will not reach Yei and that the NIF regime was sending them to a sure death to get rid of them so that the NIF army now in formation supersedes the national army.

True to our warning, the so-called Abtal Juba never reached Yei since they left Juba on 4 August 1990 to yesterday, 13 Septemebr, is exactly 40 days, and the convoy has come back to Juba full-circle without reaching Yei. They have lost more than 100 killed and more than 300 wounded. If any soldier in Juba doubts these casualty figures, let him go to the Juba military hospital and civil hospitals to see for himself as the convoy should have brought yesterday from (Jabal al-Kujur) area more than 200 wounded.

Soldiers in Juba, beware and do not accept to go to these deadly convoys. Ask your comrades of Abtal Juba what they experienced in the last 40 days between Juba and Lanya. The whole 100 miles from Juba to Yei is full of SPLA. There is simply no way any soldier from Juba can reach Yei alive, as the soldiers of Abtal Juba who survived the ordeal will easily tell you. [passage omitted]

As for Brigadier PSC [passed staff college] Salah al-Din Hamad al-Nil, the commander of Yei, and his forces in Yei, the Bright Star campaign commander asks you: What are you waiting for in Yei? You must immediately abandon Yei before the SPLA attacks you. You are a military man. You even have a PSC and a general. Make

your military appreciation. Abtal Juba that was supposed to rescue you never made it. As you know, they suffered very heavy casualties and remnants reached Juba yesterday 40 days after they left to rescue you. We want to assure you that no rescue can come to you from Juba. The very big convoy, Abtal Juba, was dealt this very deadly blow only by our first deliberate ambush of Bungu. The convoy did not reach our ambushes between Lanya and Yei. We assure you, Brig. PSC Salah Hamad al-Nil that you will never receive rescue from Juba, and do not let those in Juba deceive you with nice words. The command in Juba do not know your conditions in Yei and they do not know how hellish it is between Juba and Yei. It is only you in the real situation who knows and who can decide how to save your soldiers.

The Bright Star campaign commander also assures Brig. PSC Salah Hamad al-Nil that no rescue will come to Yei from Maridi. The 126 miles from Maridi to Yei is also full of mines and completely controlled by the SPLA. [passage omitted]

You have only one course of action left, and that is to make a tactical withdrawal into Zaire; and if you do this, the Bright Star campaign forces in the area have orders from the commander in chief not to attack you. The route to Zaire will be opened. Besides, you would not be the first to do this. [passage omitted]

'Rebel Defectors' Moved to Peace Camp

EA1309065290 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Al-Ubayyid, western Sudan, 12th September (SUNA)—Seven hundred and fifty-two rebel defectors have been moved from southern Kurdufan to peace camp north of Kaduqli, local authorities said. The returnees, the local authorities said, will be provided with assistance and be helped for self-reliance. Calls by RCC [Revolution Command Council] member and Kurdufan Governor Col Faysal Madani are being diffused urging rebels to lay down their arms and return for the nation construction.

Minister Discusses 'Operation Lifeline Sudan Two'

EA1309160590 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 13 September (SUNA)—Relief and Displaced Affairs Minister Peter Orat Ador met yesterday with the ambassadors of donor states here and representatives of the international and voluntary organisations contributing to Operation Lifeline Sudan Two and discussed the progress of relief operations. The meeting was attended by UNDP [UN Development Program] resident representative and coordinator of Operation Lifeline, Mr. Michael Priestley, the American ambassador who chairs the donor group during this month, and the acting relief commissioner, Awad Khalifah.

The meeting discussed the situation of the displaced in northern Kurdufan and Kaduqli, besides food shortages at Tong area. The meeting appropriated 2,000 tonnes of sorghum provided by the EC and agreed on the need for sending more relief food to the affected areas. This is in addition to 3,000 tonnes of food materials extended by U.S. AID.

Bahrain**Powell Departs Bahrain for Saudi Arabia 14 Sep***JN1409143090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1323 GMT 14 Sep 90*

[Text] Manama, 14 Sep (WAKH)—Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, left Manama for Dhahran this afternoon after a two-day visit to Bahrain, where he spoke with Bahraini officials about regional developments and matters of common concern.

He was seen off at the airport by Staff Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, the U.S. ambassador in Manama, and the assistant chief of staff, along with other officials.

Shortly before Gen Powell's departure, he conferred with His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander of the Bahrain Defense Force, on bilateral ties and cooperation.

They also discussed latest Gulf developments and UN Security Council resolutions calling for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from sisterly Kuwait, and the reinstatement of its legitimate government under His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and his heir apparent His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah.

Pakistani Prime Minister Arrives 15 Sep*JN1509163990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 15 Sep 90*

[Text] Manama, 15 Sep (WAKH)—Pakistani Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and his delegation arrived in Manama today from Abu Dhabi as part of a tour of a number of states in the region.

The Pakistani prime minister will hold talks with senior Bahraini officials concerning current developments on the Gulf arena, issues of concern to the Islamic world, and relations between the two countries.

The Pakistani official was received upon arrival by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahrain's prime minister; the ministers; Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah; and Mohammad Khan Junigu [name as received], Pakistan's ambassador to Bahrain.

Meets With Amir*JN1509185590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Sep 90*

[Text] Manama, 15 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahrain's prime minister; and His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahrain's heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, received Pakistani Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi in Manama today.

A meeting was held between his highness the amir of Bahrain and the Pakistani prime minister. It was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahrain's prime minister; His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahrain's heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force; Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah; Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah; Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs; Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, minister of information; Habib Ahmad al-Qasim, minister of trade and agriculture; Shaykh 'Ali Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Interior Ministry assistant under secretary for immigration and passport affairs; Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa', director general of his highness the prime minister's office; and 'Ali Muhammad al-'Aris, director of the follow-up and information section at his highness the prime minister's office.

For Pakistan, the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; Interior Minister Mian Zahid Sarfraz; Commerce Minister Elahi Bux; and Mohammad Khan Junigu, Pakistan's ambassador to Bahrain.

Bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf were discussed during the meeting. Views were identical as regards the need to act to implement Arab and international resolutions on the Gulf crisis which stress that there must be a complete, unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate authority under His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait.

In a statement to WAKH, the Pakistani prime minister said his visit to Bahrain is particularly important in view of the fact that his talks with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini amir, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahrain's prime minister, dealt with various issues of mutual concern in light of the recent developments in the region. He pointed out that the two countries' possible role is confined to averting the explosion of the situation in the region.

He added that he briefed his highness the Bahraini amir on Pakistan's position on the Gulf crisis that resulted from Iraq's flagrant aggression against Kuwait and the subsequent annexation. He pointed out that Pakistan's principled position on Iraq's act is based on its commitment to make all possible efforts, together with the international community, to secure Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government under His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait.

The Pakistani prime minister said that he stressed to his highness the Bahraini amir Pakistan's constant support for and solidarity with Bahrain in regard to the threats resulting from the recent developments, and its readiness

to contribute to any possible move to find a quick, peaceful settlement to the crisis.

The Pakistani prime minister also pointed out that he briefed the Bahraini amir on the outcome of the recent round of talks on the Kashmir problem held in New Delhi in August between the Pakistani and Indian foreign ministers and Pakistan's commitment to seek a peaceful solution to the Kashmir problem and avert an armed conflict with India.

He explained that he also reaffirmed Pakistan's sincere endeavor to bolster the excellent relations between Pakistan and Bahrain. He also expressed Pakistan's readiness to cooperate to restore peace and stability in the region.

Departs for Islamabad

JN1609182190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1745 GMT
15 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 15 Sep (WAKH)—Pakistani Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and his delegation left Manama today for Islamabad following a brief visit to Bahrain, during which he held talks on current developments in the Gulf, bilateral relations, Islamic World issues, and issues of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Bounties Offered To 'Turn In' Foreigners

NC1709084690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Iraqi invasion forces in Kuwait continue to open fire indiscriminately and search homes for military-related material [muta'allaqat 'askariyah]. They have also arrested some citizens. According to reports from Kuwait, the Iraqi invasion forces have turned Kuwaiti schools into detention camps and offered financial rewards to Kuwaitis who turn in foreign nationals.

Details on 'Kidnapping' of Frenchmen in Iraq

LD1409114490 Paris Antenne 2 Television
in French 1100 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Excerpts] We now turn to news abroad, perhaps with (Stephan Mannier) if he will come and join me to speak about what happened in Kuwait this morning. In fact, as I was telling you at the beginning of this news bulletin, four French citizens have been kidnapped in Kuwait City. The government announced this at the Quai d'Orsay [Foreign Ministry] in Paris, and I will perhaps have some details straight away with (Stephan Mannier). [passage omitted] Stephan, what is happening? Do you have any details about this kidnapping?

[(Mannier)] Very few details at the moment: We simply have the Quai d'Orsay communique which says that Iraqi soldiers entered the residence of the French Embassy [as heard] in Kuwait at 0700 hours local time I think, this morning and took away four French people, including a

military attache. At any rate, this is what was stated by a Quai d'Orsay spokesman a moment ago. The building involved is separate from the embassy; it is a very serious violation of the Vienna Convention; according to the government spokesman, it is a further intolerable breach of international law and of the integrity of persons. We obviously immediately summoned the Iraqi ambassador. Moreover, the Iraqi ambassador is to be our guest this evening on the news bulletin at 1800 GMT.

An identical protest has been lodged by the charge d'affaires in Baghdad, and this is all we know for the time being. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Troops Raid Dutch Ambassador's Residence

LD1409120690 Hilversum International Service
in English 1130 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Netherlands Foreign Affairs Secretary Hans van den Broek has advised the estimated 40 Dutch nationals still present in Kuwait to leave for the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry in The Hague said this was a precautionary measure due to the increasing intimidation of foreigners by Iraqi troops and to the shortage of food. The evacuation will be assisted by staff from the Dutch Embassy in Baghdad. The Dutch Ambassador in Kuwait Joop Veling has said he will remain at his post as long as possible.

On Thursday [13 September] Iraqi soldiers entered the residence of the Dutch ambassador in Kuwait city, who was at home at the time. As far as can be established the soldiers only caused material damage. Immediately after the raid the Dutch Government lodged a sharp protest with the Iraqi ambassador to the Netherlands.

Tunisia's Boulares Says Iraq Invaded Embassy

LD1609195390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Boulares has confirmed the Iraqi forces' invasion of the premises of the Tunisian Embassy in Kuwait. He said in an interview broadcast by London today that troops of the Iraqi regime had stormed the premises of the embassy last Monday [10 September][as heard], and stormed the residence of the Tunisian ambassador the day before yesterday, and engaged in acts of looting there.

Boulares added that the Tunisian Government had submitted a protest in this respect to the authorities of the Iraqi regime.

Amir Receives Message From Tunisia's Ben Ali

LD1509131290 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, conferred this morning with Tunisian Minister

of Culture and Information Ahmed Khaled, who handed the amir a message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The meeting was attended by the Kuwaiti minister of information, Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad.

Iraqis Open Border From Kuwait to Saudi Arabia

NC1609080690 Paris AFP in English 0800 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, Sept 16 (AFP)—Iraqi troops have opened a border post between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to allow hundreds of people to flee the occupied emirate, Saudi border police said Sunday [16 September].

The police, contacted by telephone from Bahrain, said Iraqi troops had been confiscating the identity papers of people crossing the border since it was opened late Saturday.

A Bahraini newspaper, AL-AYYAM, quoted refugees as saying Iraqi troops were "encouraging" Kuwaitis to flee and stripping them of their possessions.

Cabinet Views Iraqi Attempt To 'Empty' Kuwait

NC1709061890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Kuwait has warned that Iraq is trying to empty Kuwait of its own citizens by sending them across the borders to Saudi Arabia. The Kuwaiti cabinet held an emergency session in al-Ta'if yesterday and issued a statement saying that the opening of borders with Saudi is a new Iraqi scheme aimed at removing the Kuwaitis from their own country, after seizing their personal documents, and settling Iraqi citizens in their place.

The Kuwaiti cabinet called on the international community to confront Iraq and force it to respect international law.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti refugees who yesterday crossed the border into Saudi Arabia said that the Iraqi occupation forces in Kuwait are firing indiscriminately and sometimes demolish entire buildings at the slightest suspicion that Kuwaiti resistance elements are hiding inside.

The refugees said that despite Iraqi repression, Kuwaiti resistance men are still defiant and in high spirits, in contrast to the Iraqi soldiers, whose morale is low. The refugees added that the Iraqi soldiers are living in fear and do not venture into the streets at night.

Cabinet Decides To Assist Refugee Transportation

LD1609151390 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] The state of Kuwait has reiterated its sympathy with the refugees flocking toward Jordan because of the treacherous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti cabinet meeting expressed its regret over the situation of these innocent people. The cabinet condemned and

denounced the practices of the treacherous Iraqi regime. The Kuwaiti cabinet has decided to take appropriate measures to facilitate the transportation of the refugees to their countries, and alleviate their hardship.

An authoritative cabinet source said in a statement broadcast by Kuwait radio today, that the turmoil and tension reigning in the world these days is basically due to the obstinacy and stubbornness of the aggressive Iraqi regime. Its aggression against the state of Kuwait confirms that this regime represents a danger to international law as a whole.

The Kuwaiti cabinet called on the international community to tighten the noose against the Iraqi regime and isolate it so as to spare Kuwait this treacherous occupation.

Morale of Iraqi Forces Said To Be 'Very Low'

PM1409131190 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 13 Sep 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Radio Communications Center in Kuwait Blown Up"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Text] Kuwaiti-Saudi border, KUNA—A journalist working in Kuwait yesterday said that the Kuwaiti national resistance launched two new attacks against the Iraqi occupation forces last Thursday and Friday [13 and 14 September], inflicting human and material losses on them.

The journalist told KUNA that an opposition forces group attacked an occupation forces concentration in an area south of Kuwait City, "killing and wounding scores of occupation soldiers."

He added that the attack also resulted in damage to a military vehicle, and that the attackers managed to withdraw safely and without any casualties among them.

The reporter said that last Friday a group from the Kuwaiti resistance forces blew up a house used by the occupation forces as a radio communications center. As a result, the elements who were inside the center at the time were killed, and all equipment inside was destroyed.

He pointed out that the house was blown up by a new method invented by the Kuwaiti resistance men, but he declined to give any details about the method.

Furthermore, the reporter said that he had met a captain from the Iraqi Republican Guards in a Kuwaiti area who informed him that "the Iraqi Army's morale is very low, supplies from Baghdad have been cut off, and over the past period they have relied on what is looted by the Iraqi Army from the Kuwaiti people."

France To Appoint Envoy to 'Legitimate' Regime

LD1509213890 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic
1949 GMT 15 Sep 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message" program]

[Text] A responsible French diplomatic source announced that France will appoint a permanent representative to the legitimate Kuwaiti Government, led by his highness the beloved Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, in reaction to Iraq's siege around the French Embassy in Kuwait that prevents its staff from carrying out their duties.

The French source told journalists that the appointment of a French representative to his highness the amir does not mean that France will close its embassy in Kuwait. The source indicated that the mission of the French representative, who will be at the ambassadorial level, will include securing the continuity of contacts and consultations between Kuwait and France, and stressing France's continuous support for the Kuwaiti Government, led by his highness the beloved Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

UN Envoy Urges Iraqi Expulsion From Groups

AU1409202390 Paris AFP in English 2011 GMT
14 Sep 90

[Text] Paris, Sept. 13 (AFP)—Kuwait's representative to the United Nations conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) called Friday [14 September] for the expulsion of Iraq from international organizations and denounced the "violation" by Iraqi troops of Western embassies in Kuwait City.

Ambassador Tareq Razzouqi told a plenary session of the parley that President Saddam Hussein's regime "does not represent the Iraqi people."

Delegates of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) also denounced the latest Iraqi action, in particular the invasion of the French ambassador's residence in Kuwait City.

They were speaking in a debate on a report by the conference's credentials committee which rejected an Iraqi bid to have the Kuwaiti government-in-exile and Israel ousted from their seats.

The U.S. delegate, Laurance Bond, said there was "no basis" for questioning the "legitimate right" of either of these states to take part in the conference.

List of Iraqi 'Theft and Robbery' Compiled

NC1509191190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti Government has compiled a complete list of the acts of theft and robbery carried out by the Iraqi forces since they invaded Kuwait on 2 August. These thefts include state property, public and private

establishments, individual property, and contents of houses, factories, stores, hospitals, scientific institutes, schools, and universities.

In a memorandum sent to the UN secretary general, the Kuwaiti Government stresses that the Iraqi occupation authorities' acts against Kuwait are tantamount to armed robbery carried by one state against another state.

Labor Minister on Help to Kuwaitis Abroad

JN1609065590 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT
15 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 15 (GNA)—Kuwaiti Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Shaykh Jabir 'Abdullah al-Jabir was quoted today as saying that his country's embassies and consulates all over the world have started taking order of amir of Kuwait H.H. (His Highness) Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, regarding the accommodation and living subvention for the Kuwaiti families outside Kuwait in cooperation with the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] officials.

"The Amir's decision came directly after the invasion," he told AL-ITTIHAD and EMIRATES NEWS newspapers.

"Kuwaitis do not feel that they are far from their home in GCC countries and that is what makes us co-exist easily with the brothers in the environment," he added.

About the supply of foodstuffs and the other needs in Kuwait he said, "usually in war conditions the International Red Cross and human rights agencies used to help the citizens with food and other supplies, but during this invasion the country [as received] has happened... the invading forces looted medicine, threw out patients from the hospitals, and looted foodstuff stores.

"But the citizens of Kuwait cooperated to share the food stocked by them, and some of them volunteered for medical help and clinics have been set up in certain houses there."

He urged citizens to exercise austerity until the crisis is solved.

"They don't have to consider themselves on a holiday. They have to remember the conditions of the people living inside Kuwait," he said.

"We can't in this short period ensure the needs of the thousands of people who took refuge abroad... But we will try."

Qatar

General Schwarzkopf Received by Amir Al Thani

JN1509142790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT
15 Sep 90

[Text] Doha, 15 Sep (WAKH)—Amir of Qatar His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani received General

Norman Schwarzkopf, commander in chief of U.S. forces in the Gulf, here this morning. The general is currently visiting Doha as part of a tour of the region.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; Staff Colonel Pilot Hamad 'Abdallah Al Thani, chief of staff; Mark Hambley, U.S. ambassador in Doha; and the accompanying delegation.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the talks dealt with events in the region in light of the latest military developments, as well as the means of promoting and strengthening friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Received by Heir, Chief of Staff

JN1509143290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Doha, 15 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatar's heir apparent and defense minister, today met with General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander in chief of the U.S. forces in the Gulf. They discussed during the meeting the latest developments regarding the Gulf crisis, particularly military developments in the region, and relations between the two countries.

The Qatari chief of staff, Staff Air Colonel Hamad Bin-'Abdallah Al Thani also met today with the commander of the U.S. troops. They discussed the current situation in the region and relations between the two countries and means to strengthen and improve them in the military field.

Gen. Schwarzkopf arrived in Doha earlier today on a one-day visit to Qatar as part of a tour of a number of states in the region.

Departs 15 Sep After Brief Visit

JN1509143590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Doha, 15 Sep (WAKH)—General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. forces in the region, left Doha today following a brief visit to the State of Qatar.

He was seen off by a number of Armed Forces commanders and senior officers and U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Mark Hambley.

Amir Receives Tunisian President's Message

JN1309132590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Doha, 13 Sep (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani today received a written message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali concerning developments in the region and relations between the two countries. The

message was delivered by Tunisian Culture and Information Minister Ahmed Khaled during a meeting with his highness the Qatari amir today.

Foreign Minister Receives Message From Austria

JN1309133090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Doha, 13 Sep (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir has received a written message from Austrian Foreign Minister Dr. Alois Mock. The message was delivered by Anton Brihaska [name as received], the special envoy of the Austrian foreign minister, during his meeting with the foreign minister this morning.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said the message deals with bilateral relations and ways of enhancing and developing them, in addition to the latest developments in the Gulf region.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Television Carries Bush Message to Iraqis

LD1609213790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Gentlemen, U.S. President George Bush tonight addressed a recorded message to the Iraqi people in which he spoke about the error committed by Saddam with his savage invasion of Kuwait. He also spoke about the contradictions in Saddam's policy.

[Begin recording: President Bush in English fading into superimposed Arabic translation] I am here today to explain to the Iraqi people the causes that have prompted the United States and the international community to respond in this way to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

My objective is neither to trade accusations nor to step up the war of words, but to speak sincerely and candidly about what has caused this crisis that we are now facing.

There must be no misunderstanding: We are not in a dispute with the people of Iraq, and I have said more than once and I repeat now, that our sole objective is to resist the invasion ordered by Saddam Husayn.

On 2 August, your leadership made its decision to invade and to launch an attack, without any provocation, against a small state that constitutes no danger to you. Kuwait was the victim, and Iraq the aggressor. The world has faced up to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait with a common denunciation. The United Nations made unanimous decisions, and 27 states, rich and poor, Arab, Muslim, Asian, and African, responded to the invitation of Saudi Arabia and free Kuwait and sent forces to the Gulf region in order to defend against Iraq.

For the first time in the history of the Arab League, 13 member states of the League, representing 80 percent of

the Arab nation, denounced a sister Arab state. And today, Iraq stands isolated, alone, opposed by world public opinion.

I believe that you, the Iraqi people, do not want war. You have borne untold hardship and suffering during the eight long years of war with Iran; a war that has had an effect on the life of every Iraqi citizen; a war that has claimed the lives of thousands of youths who would have been the shining hope for a whole generation.

No one knows better than you the huge costs of war. The cost of a conflict which would consume the state's capabilities and its vital resources. No one knows what Iraq might have been today, nor the prosperity and peace which you might have been enjoying today had your leaders not involved you in a war. Iraq is finding itself once more on the brink of war. Once more, the same Iraqi leadership has made a mistake, and once more the Iraqi people are facing a tragedy.

Saddam Husayn has told you that the Iraqi forces were invited to Kuwait. This is not true. The fact is the Kuwaiti people are courageously resisting an occupation and facing a huge force. Your own returning soldiers will tell how the Kuwaitis are courageously fighting through the use of any means.

Saddam Husayn has told you that this crisis is a confrontation between Iraq and America. In fact it is a confrontation between Iraq and the world. When I met with President Gorbachev in Helsinki, we agreed that it is not possible to establish a peaceful international order if larger powers can swallow their neighbors. Never before has international opinion been so solidly united against aggression.

The United States only started opposing Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait. The United States helped Iraq import billions of dollars worth of food and other commodities. The war against Iran would not have ended two years ago had it not been for U.S. help and its support at the United Nations.

Saddam Husayn tells you the occupation of Kuwait will benefit the poorer countries in the world. In fact, the occupation of Kuwait will benefit no one; it is now hurting you, members of the Iraqi people, and also countless others of the world's poor people. Instead of acquiring new oil resources by annexing Kuwait, this misguided aggressive act will cost Iraq more than \$20 billion a year in lost oil revenues.

Because of Iraq's aggression, hundreds of thousands of innocent foreign workers are fleeing Kuwait and Iraq, and they are stranded on the borders with Iraq without shelter, food, or medicines, and with no way home. These refugees are suffering, and this is a disgraceful thing.

What is worse is that there are other foreigners who are detained as hostages in Iraq and Kuwait. Taking hostages punishes the innocent and splits members of families. This is a savagery, but it will not succeed, and it will not affect my capacity to make difficult decisions.

I do not want to add to the sufferings of the Iraqi people; the United Nations has imposed binding restrictions, not to punish the Iraqi people, but as a peaceful solution in order to convince your leadership to withdraw from Kuwait. This decision is in the hands of Saddam Husayn.

The pain you are now suffering from is a direct result of the course of action chosen by your leadership, and when Iraq returns to the path of peace, when the Iraqi forces withdraw from Kuwait, when the legitimate government returns to that state, and when all the foreigners detained against their will are freed, then and only then will the world abolish the sanctions. Perhaps your leaders do not appreciate the power of the forces united against them. Allow me to say clearly that it is impossible for Iraq to succeed. Ultimately, Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait. No one, neither the American people nor the American President, wants war, but there are times when a state, and even all the states which value the principles of sovereignty and independence, must stand against aggression.

We as Americans do not get angry quickly and we are anxious to explore all peaceful means to settle our disputes. However, when we have exhausted all alternatives and when fighting is imposed on us, there is no nation on earth with greater determination or stronger commitment to its aim than ours.

The actions of your leadership have put Iraq at odds with the world community. Although this behavior has brought us closer to the brink of war, war is not inevitable as it is still possible to put an end to this crisis in a peaceful way. When we stand with Kuwait against aggression, we stand for a principle which is well understood in the Arab world, and I will quote here the words of an Arab leader who is Saddam Husayn himself: The Arab does not have the right to occupy another Arab country. Watch our behaviour. If, God forbid, this takes place between two other Arab countries, we will adopt the same stance. If, God forbid, Iraq deviates from these principles, we call on Arabs to mobilize armies, and if it is intoxicated by its power and wants to use it on another Arab country, it would be right for Arabs to mobilize their armies and stop it.

These are the words of your leader Saddam Husayn on 28 November 1988 in his speech before Arab lawyers. Today, after two years, Saddam has invaded and occupied a state which is a member of the United Nations, and of the Arab League. The world will not allow aggression to remain, and Iraq must get out of Kuwait for the sake of principle, for the sake of peace, and for the sake of the Iraqi people. [end recording]

Egypt Reportedly To Send 15,000 More Soldiers

NC1709054890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Sources close to the Egyptian Defense Ministry have said that Egypt will send 15,000 soldiers, supported by tanks and armored vehicles, to Saudi Arabia to join the 5,000 soldiers already there.

The new contingents are expected to be airlifted today. However, no official statement has been issued in this connection.

United Arab Emirates**'Significance' of Bush Congress Speech Viewed**

JN1709112390 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
13 Sep 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Significance of Bush's Speech"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's speech before the two houses of Congress includes several very important points on which all sides must pause so as not to miss the opportunity of understanding their significance. The U.S. Administration, based on enthusiastic support from the two houses of the Congress, is certainly determined to deter the Iraqi aggression. This determination, as Bush said, began right after the Iraqi Forces invaded

Kuwait. "However, this is not America's stand against Iraq, but it is Iraq's stand against the whole world."

This description of the crux of the crisis is correct, because Iraq's invasion of its peaceful neighbor has provoked the feelings of the world's big and small states alike. This is because this invasion conflicts with all the peoples' aspirations for a world in which peace and justice prevail, especially after the end of the cold war and the disappearance of slogans of confrontations that should be replaced by slogans of detente and mutual interests.

If we take into consideration that President Bush's speech has come directly following the Helsinki summit, then we can fully understand what he meant by his statement in which he pointed to the "establishment of a new international system that becomes clear through a new era free of the threats of terrorism, stronger in achieving justice, and more peaceful in its relationship with the issue of peace." This simply means that the recent changes in the world have actually paved the way for the establishment of a kind of world peace that will not allow any small state to place obstacles in its way, and that there is real agreement between the two super-powers in this regard.

This leaves Bush's serious indication when he thanked the Congressmen for their enthusiastic support when he said: "This support will be more important during the coming days." We do not believe that one needs to be very smart to realize what the coming days will bring. Does this mean that it is all over and that catastrophe will inevitably fall? The next few days will answer this question.

'Spontaneous' Response to Bush Broadcast Prepared
PM1409121590 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI
in Arabic 13 Sep 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Intelligence Mobilized a Week Ago To Prepare a 'Spontaneous Popular' Reply to Bush Television Message"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Excerpt] Washington, London, AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI—On orders from Saddam Husayn personally, Iraqi intelligence organs have for a week been working to prepare a reply to U.S. President George Bush's television message to the Iraqi people—a reply that would look "popular" and "spontaneous" immediately after the message is broadcast.

Informed Iraqi sources have revealed to AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI that the intelligence organs have ordered all the state's employees to take to the streets with their women and children immediately after the message has been broadcast by Iraqi television, otherwise they will be liable to punishment. They have ordered the so-called "Popular Army" to bring in thousands of farmers and workers from the villages—by force if necessary—by transporting them to Baghdad on military buses and trucks. The organs have also ordered textile factories to make thousands of U.S. flags to be burned in the streets. They have also ordered the students and teaching staff of the Baghdad University Faculty of Art to make "effigies" of President Bush to burn in front of the world media as the Iraqi people's "spontaneous reaction" to the U.S. President's message. [passage omitted]

Speech 'Apparently Uncut'

NC1609164890 Paris AFP in English 1639 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, Sept 16 (AFP)—Iraqi television on Sunday broadcast an apparently uncut message to the Iraqi people on the Gulf crisis from U.S. President George Bush. The message, videotaped in Washington and monitored here, lasted more than seven minutes and was read and sub-titled in Arabic.

Mr. Bush told his viewers that Iraqi troops had invaded neighboring Kuwait on August 2, contrary to Iraqi government assertions that they had been invited by a "revolutionary" government in the emirate. "Iraq has made a mistake and the Iraqi people are now living the crisis," the president said, a reference to a United Nations trade embargo imposed on Baghdad.

Just before the message was aired, an Iraqi television announcer said the appearance on U.S. television of President Saddam Husayn had "caused a major change in U.S. public opinion." As a result, he said, Mr. Bush had been eager to address the Iraqi people.

Mr. Husayn's remarks had helped to "shed light on the reasons behind the U.S. intervention in the (Gulf) region," he added. He recalled that Iraq had wanted to send a

television team to the United States to tape the message, but Mr. Bush wanted to prepare his own cassette.

Masses Express 'Outrage'

JN1609193490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1817 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Iraqi masses throughout the country were out on the streets and public squares this evening to give expression to their outrage over U.S. President George Bush's letter screened by Baghdad television tonight. In angry marches and demonstrations throughout Iraqi cities from Zakho to the sea, the masses gave vent to the resentment the Iraqis and the honorable Arabs feel for the paradoxes and falsehoods and empty haughtiness and condescension toward the people contained in Bush's message. The massive crowds from Zakho to the sea chanted in unison: Death to Bush; death to U.S. imperialism; down with the conspiracy; death to the agents of America and Zionism, Fahd and Husni.

INA correspondents in Baghdad and the governorates sent back vivid pictures of the resolve of Iraqi masses proclaiming a renewal of their allegiance to the leader, the symbol Saddam Husayn—the great son of Iraq, the protector of their procession, and the leader of their victories toward the heights of glory and [word indistinct]. The masses, who packed streets and public squares, voiced their extreme anger with the betrayer of the two holy mosques who allowed the American forces of invasion to desecrate the chaste land of the Muslims in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and train their foul spears on Holy Mecca and Holy al-Madinah—the cradle of prophets and the orthodox caliphates and the virtuous favorites [of God].

In their slogans and chants, the masses of Iraq, along with the masses of the Arab nation, reiterated their rallying around the leader Saddam Husayn—the symbol of honorable Iraqis and Arabs everywhere. They pledged that they will forever follow behind his unique leadership to foil the conspiracy and teach American invading aggressors and their backers fresh and unique lessons in heroism and martyrdom, and cause them to retreat and curse their ill luck that has led them to the abyss of death on the chaste land of the Arabs.

The slogans carried by the valiant children of Iraq in the tumultuous, angry demonstrations reflected the truthful allegiance to the leader Saddam Husayn. They also mirrored the depth of the hatred felt by the masses toward American imperialism and foreign interference in Arab land and waters. Some of the slogans raised: Our heads will bow only to God; Struggler leader Saddam Husayn shall remain a symbol of struggle and unity; Whatever Saddam Husayn says speaks for the wishes of the people of Iraq; We condemn the interference of imperialist forces in the holy land; We will not listen to the one who wants to deprive us of food and medicine; We will not respect whoever does not respect Saddam Husayn; Withdraw your forces from our holy land, Bush.

Press Editorials on Speech

JN1709072690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT
17 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi papers today were unanimous that the response of the people of great Iraq to Bush was a renewal of the pledge of allegiance to the historic leader, the son of the people, Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi newspapers stress that the pledge of allegiance was declared by the sons of Iraq in all villages and towns, who also declared a stance of anger, denunciation, and challenge to Bush, his army, his criminal blockade, allies, and agents.

In today's editorial, AL-THAWRAH says that the overall allegiance is the response, the decision, and belief in the path led by the leader of the people and nation Saddam Husayn. The paper addresses the American president saying: Be damned O impudent imperialist. We raise Saddam Husayn as our sword, banner, and leader because he said: No. He said it through acts, construction, capability, and determination. We renew our pledge of allegiance because he is from us and speaks with our tongue, mind, aspirations, and will. And because of this, all Arabs, Muslims, and all poor and honest people in the world shout in his name.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The only legitimacy is that of the Arab nation. The occupation, invasion, blockade, traitors, and agents have no legitimacy. And if you wave military action and aggression, Iraq is at the peak of readiness to defend its dignity, sovereignty, and rights supported by all Arabs, Muslims, and honest people in the world.

The paper stresses that Iraq is capable and solid. Iraq, its leader, and its nation are all in the same boat and have one will that believes in rights, victory, and martyrdom for the sake of victory. And if war is imposed on us, a catastrophe will be inflicted on the aggressors, traitors, and usurpers. We will purge all the land of the Arabs from every presence that encroaches on sovereignty and dignity, as well as from all occupiers and exploiters.

AL-THAWRAH says: This is the stance of Iraq; this is its firm response; and this is the popular response. It is a blow dealt by the people of the two al-Qadisiyah battles to the American president who is not aware of the Iraqis' belief in their rights and their great adherence to their dignity, sovereignty, and historic leadership. The paper strongly attacks Bush for reversing facts and claiming that what is taking place is a conflict between Iraq and the world. The paper describes this as a forgery of the reality of the current conflict, a justification for the American robbery of the international legitimacy, and an attempt to peddle the schemes of occupation and aggression.

The Iraqi paper affirms that the Iraqi people know and do not forget that the American president is not a friend and he was never so at any time; he has been a supporter of all enemies. And now he is the direct enemy whose forces are desecrating Mecca and the tomb of the

prophet and who is concentrating the naval and air fleets, as well as the armies, on the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and in the waters of the Arabian Gulf to threaten aggression against Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH says: It has become clear that Bush has failed in the first direct test in front of the Iraqis. His message was crude as it revolved around the fact without daring to touch on this fact directly. In today's editorial, the Iraqi paper described Bush's attempt to separate the Iraqi people and their leader Saddam Husayn as miserable and ridiculous at the same time. The paper adds that we do not believe that Bush in his capacity as the president of the United States did not hear or see the massive rally [around Saddam Husayn], not only by the Iraqis but also by the whole Arab street together with the honest Arab leaders. If Bush was blind he could not have been deaf not to hear the roar of the Arab masses redeeming leader Saddam Husayn and announcing their rally around his leadership to fight the American aggression and expel the invasion forces from Najd and Hejaz, the land of the most sacred Islamic holy places, Kaaba and the tomb of the great Prophet Muhammad. Bush and others should realize a second fact; namely, Iraq and Saddam Husayn's leadership are in one boat and cannot be separated.

AL-QADISIYAH ridicules Bush's attempt to convince the Iraqi people through addressing them of his respect of world public opinion and peoples. The paper says that Bush pretends to forget that human memory stores bitter crimes and scandals of the ugly American that produced a severe hatred of everything American so that the picture of this state, America, is linked with everything imperialist, colonialist, terrorist, and bloody.

The paper adds: We are not concerned about Bush's boring repetition of the talk about peace. This call in accordance with its American meaning does not merit a response but contempt, because Bush and his administration are far away from peace while Iraq and its leader Saddam Husayn are very close to peace. However, what attracts attention in Bush's message is that he tries to cover the intention of war and aggression with a worn-out facade by speaking about peace. And here lies the seriousness in his message; in fact, this might be the real meaning of his message.

The paper notes a serious issue that was also intentionally ignored by Bush, who did not touch on it at all. And this is the American presence in the region. He did not deal with this presence, its duration, or connection with the Gulf crisis; he completely ignored this issue. This means in accordance with the logic of the American policy that the forces invading the lands of the Arabs and Muslims will remain as a permanent occupation force of the sources of oil in the Arabian Gulf regardless of the developments of events in the region. And this is also the essential part of his message.

The paper stresses that Bush's message involves a great deal of malicious and aggressive intentions which merit

shedding light on so as to strip the fig leaf from the arrogant American policy. In his message, the American president truly expressed his reality as an unmatched imperialist and colonialist president.

In today's editorial AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the swift, accurate, decisive Iraqi response launched by millions of Iraqis and Arabs in Iraq alone in one roaring voice and in very clear expressions is the response which the sons of the new great Iraq are used to making when anyone wants to harm Iraq and the Arab nation or when any side imagines that it can undermine the option of the strong determined Iraqi and Arab will. The paper adds that it is a response with the size of the flood of anger and challenge of a wave of an honest people who love their homeland, who are ready to make sacrifices, who have a firm and unshaken belief in the principles of their nation, and who are faithful to their beloved leader Saddam Husayn whom they carried in their conscience and heart as a voice, a pulse, a title, and symbol of dignity, loftiness, and capability.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that it is a response which cannot be analyzed by all the computers of the U.S. Administration, the Zionists, and the anti-Arab Western alliance because the details of this response have annulled and wiped out the eight minutes of Bush's message. These details are not polished letters, words, or expressions, but are deep-rooted in this sacred and chaste land. They stem from the roots of a people who have a lofty civilization that is neither known by the civilization of computers nor by the corridors of the White House, the yellow house, the red house, and their desperate quarters.

The paper adds that what Bush said yesterday does not need much effort to be refuted and to expose its contradictions and its deviation from the tangible facts and clear realities. But what really calls for meditation is his belief that his words could affect the Iraqis. This affirms that the American president is a captive of a big illusion and big mistakes in viewing things. His aides and advisers shoulder part of the responsibility for this and he personally shoulders the other part because of his arrogance and insistence on not learning from the Iraqis. President Saddam Husayn had earlier warned him against this and against the dangers of falling under this illusion.

The paper says that Bush should have thought many times before recording his speech, which greatly harmed his reputation and deepened the conviction of the sons of Iraq in the fairness of their position and cause. However, he seems to be insistent on accomplishing the deal about which he spoke—the deal that serves his retarded small agents and which has nothing to do with the interests of the American people.

AL-IRAQ says that Bush tried to separate the Iraqi people and their leader Saddam Husayn although he, his aides, and the entire world know that Saddam Husayn is the righteous son of the people and the Arab nation and the

struggler who does not stop defending them. In its editorial, AL-IRAQ affirms that in his message Bush intended to forge and falsify the facts related to the entire situation whose responsibility is shouldered by the American policy of adventures which rely on the traitors of the Arabs and Muslims in the Arabian Peninsula, the Arabian Gulf, and Egypt. The paper adds that Bush's claims about peace contradict the invasion of the region and the mobilization of American and Western forces in a size that is equivalent to what took place in the two world wars of this century. Bush's claims give the immediate impression that the mission required from the invaders is to control the entire region and risk a third war.

Editor Comments on Address

JN1609183690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—The INA international affairs editor has said: Bush's personal complex begins from his personal desire to take advantage of the current international conditions to become the world's dictator.

The Iraqi people saw and heard Bush's allegations and lies in an address shown by Baghdad television this evening. They also saw the flagrant mixing of things and confusion that made him fall into exposed contradictions.

The editor noted that the first thing that Bush surprised the listener and viewer with was that he gave himself the authority to speak on behalf of the international community. The editor wondered if the presidents of world states had authorized Bush to speak on their behalf in such a rude manner. He said: We know very well that this has not happened. However, Bush has given himself the authority to do so, just as he has given himself the authority to make decisions in the White House and collect signatures for them at the UN Security Council.

He pointed out that Bush believes that the world is ready for the establishment of a new world order, which the United States will alone lead and formulate in accordance with the requirements of its narrow interests. He said: Bush stated this in his speech before the U.S. Congress last week. He therefore wants to Americanize the world and since he is the U.S. President, then let him be the dictator of this world.

The INA international affairs editor added: This complex of Bush's has not yet found a solution. If some sides have submitted—whether on their own will or by force—to his sick desire, others have said "no," a big and decisive "no." Iraq said it clearly and boldly; it said it on behalf of all the persecuted, oppressed, and exploited. This is the secret behind the outburst of Bush's hatred against Iraq, its leader, and its heroic militant people.

Therefore, he and his Zionist and British allies continued to lie in wait for Iraq. They took many opportunities and fabricated several incidents to justify and cover acts aimed at distorting, harming, and dealing a blow to Iraq's international reputation. The episodes of

such occasions and incidents that have taken place over the past months are no secret to anyone.

The last such occasion was the merger between Iraq and Kuwait. Once this took place and the Iraqi forces entered Kuwait, Bush and his administration went mad.

The editor explained the steps of Bush's flagrant hostility toward Iraq and said that Bush, together with his agents Fahd and Husni, concocted a false excuse to occupy the land of holy Mecca and the tomb of the honorable prophet; namely, protecting Saudi Arabia from a potential Iraqi invasion.

The editor added: Bush believed the world is so naive as to believe this exposed lie, especially since his allies, lackeys, and agents went along with him for various motives and reasons. But he was soon taken by surprise when the Iraqis, Arabs, Muslims, and all honorable men of the world declared their anger, denunciation, and readiness to liberate Najd and Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] from the dirt of the occupiers.

The editor drew attention to the fact that the dispute mentioned in the address is not only a dispute between Iraq and the United States, but between the United States and its allies and agents on one side and all the Iraqis, Arabs, Muslims, and honorable men in the world on the other. He added: It is a dispute between right and wrong, atheism and faith, and brute force and peaceable masses. It is a dispute between the wild wealth protected by force and the poor, exploited, and conquered nations; a dispute between imperialism, Zionism, and their agents on one side and the persecuted and oppressed masses on the other.

The editor explained that this is the essence of the dispute. This is the truth. It is not a dispute between Iraq and the international community, as Bush alleges in different wording. The evidence is this sweeping anger of the Arab masses and the Muslims, whose holy places were desecrated and who were humiliated. Even in the imperialist countries, foremost of which are the United States, Britain, and France, many sides expressed denunciation but authorities in these countries surrounded these sides and even suffocated them, as happened in France.

He said: We do not know if Bush's advisers convey to him what is really happening in the streets of the Arab homeland, in the streets of the Islamic nation, and even in the streets of the U.S. allies and those who received orders from it, or whether they do convey the reality but he ignores the picture because he and his like disdain the masses—a disdain that is part and parcel of the nature of imperialists and their agents.

He described what is taking place in those streets as a move to express the free will that defies pressure, repression, and coercion and to explain itself in every possible way. This will is the essence of every real legitimacy, if Bush believes in it and respects it as it is respected by

those who seek the progress, prosperity, and happiness of their people. He wondered: Where is Bush in all this?

The INA editor said: Bush understands the international community's will as meaning resolutions made in the White House and approved, through pressure and enticement, at the UN Security Council. He is trying to deceive the others into believing that those resolutions are international and legitimate, just as he was deceived, and tried to deceive the U.S. people, into believing that a handful of rejected Arab rulers represented an Arab majority. This gives his position and that of his allies and agents a false legitimacy that uses international law as a cover for occupation, aggression, and the desecration of sacred places.

The editor said, in derision: Bush and the U.S. Government should be the last to talk about "international law" and "international legitimacy." The contemporary world has not seen any country that violated international law and challenged the international will as does the United States and its ally, the Zionist entity. The United States and its ally, the rejected Zionist entity, have even been cited as an example of every violation of international laws and norms. They also represent the ugliest example of double standards in dealing with the United Nations and the UN Security Council resolutions. It is enough to mention that the United States has used the "veto" more than 60 times to stop the UN Security Council from issuing decrees that were accepted unanimously at times, and with a majority at others. We say this is enough to show the extent of the United States' disdain of international institutions and the world community's will and resolutions.

The INA international affairs editor added: We will not be astonished at this if we know that the aforementioned resolutions regarded the Palestine question and Lebanon, and the Zionist entity's policy toward them. The United States has always protected the Zionist enemy and supported its aggression against the Arab nation and its usurpation of the Arab nation's rights. Its stand toward the Palestine question and Lebanon, and on the attendant resolutions has always been a flagrant example of the double standard, bragging about international legitimacy on the one hand, and violating it harshly on the other.

The INA international affairs editor went on: When Bush mentions the war between Iraq and Iran, it pleases him to pretend that he had wished that this war would not have been waged, and that he sympathizes with the Iraqi people who suffered from this war. However, he ignores the role of the United States and its ally, the Zionist entity, in escalating and prolonging the war. By doing so, he scorns the memory of the people, including the memory of the American people, who have not yet forgotten the Irangate scandal and Bush's role in this scandal in spreading and prolonging the war.

The INA editor stressed: Bush may ignore this scandal, but we will never forget it. We remember it well and

recall the secret role played by the United States and its ally, the Zionist entity, in prolonging the war, both its role regarding intelligence information and its role in obstructing the adoption of firm UN resolutions.

The editor refuted the intentions behind Bush's address and said Bush thinks that if he flatters the Iraqi people with a few words he can change their ideas about him and his like among the leaders of imperialism and Zionism who brought tragedy and woe to our people and nation as well as other nations.

He indicated that Bush insists on ignoring Iraq's historical rights over its southern part, Kuwait, and the role British colonialism played in severing this part from Iraq to prevent it from truly being able to overlook the sea and seizing a considerable part of its oil wealth and placing it in the hands of the corrupt Croesuses who dissipated this wealth and prevented the Arabs from benefiting from it while they gave bountifully to foreign countries in the form of investments, deposits, and so forth.

He said that Bush is trying to draw a tragic picture of the corrupt Croesuses to elicit sympathy for them although they were rough and hard-hearted. He does not forget to depict them as meek and peaceful although they launched a fierce economic war on Iraq. They were not satisfied with the land British colonialism carved up for them, but systematically seized Iraqi territory totalling 76 km within a few years. Moreover, they stole oil from fields known by all to be Iraq's.

The editor said that these are the ones for whom Bush tried to arouse sympathy. It is these people who ignored Iraq's warnings, the latest of which was leader President Saddam Husayn's warning during the Arab summit conference held in Baghdad late last May. He also explained to them in front of all the Arab leaders that what they were doing was an economic war and that wars were not staged only with armies, but also through other means, including the economy.

The editor was not surprised by the fact the Bush defends these people and their like, as these people are an obedient tool in the hands of imperialism and its allies to concoct plots against Iraq in its capacity as the basis of the new Arab awakening and the source of the aspirations of the Arab nation and its masses, especially the people of Palestine and their masses, which struggle to realize their legitimate rights.

He said that Bush has completely failed in his defense of them because the Iraqis and the Arabs know the nature of these rotten Croesuses. They also know why the protector of Zionism, Bush, defends them. They even know that Kuwait has always been part of Iraq, that it has never been a state, and that imperialism has never been able to make it a state for its lackeys.

The INA editor ridiculed Bush's talk about aid he claimed the United States had offered to Iraq to import foodstuffs and other goods. He said: Has the United States offered those goods to Iraq for free? Was it not a

matter of buying and selling? Were the American farmers, who now suffer huge losses as a result of the blockade imposed by the Bush administration against Iraq, not the first to benefit from this?

The editor stressed: Our people in Iraq know their enemies and friends quite well. They also know the United States and the base role it played to harm them and usurp the Arab nation's rights and impose the Zionist occupation on its territory. They also know the United States' ugly role in the world and its intervention in the domestic affairs of other countries and protection of the corrupt regimes to secure its illegitimate interests. Therefore, they do not need Bush—in his person and as President of the United States—to tell them where their rights and interests are and to tell them who abandons those rights, encroaches on their interests, and tries to blackmail them and who does not. They are a struggling people with deep roots whose history goes back for over 6,000 years. They are not merely groups that met on the land of another people and eliminated them, or nearly did so, to usurp their land and enjoy its blessings.

The INA international affairs editor drew Bush's attention to the fact that it would be naive that through his words, Bush might imagine that he could separate the Iraqi people and their symbol, leader Saddam Husayn. Saddam Husayn is the son of these people. These people know the course of Saddam Husayn's life and how he assumed his leading position in the state and the society. He is not one of those rulers who were made by foreign intelligence and who came to power protected by the bayonets of foreign intelligence from the wrath of the people. But he is a historical, struggling leader who adheres to his people. The people have tried him under the most difficult circumstances. The people have also shared with him these difficult circumstances for the sake of pride, dignity, happiness, and prosperity. In light of this, Bush's attempts to separate the people from their symbol leader seem to be more than miserable.

He added: Bush did not content himself with all the aforementioned allegations and fabrications, but spoke about thousands of foreign workers who left the southern part of Iraq for their countries. He pretends that he sympathizes with them. However, he ignores the fact that these workers did not leave Kuwait at Iraq's request or under Iraqi pressure, but as a result of the United States' flagrant threats against Iraq and as a result of the economic blockade the United States imposed against it. Iraq has always sympathized and is still sympathizing with them, taking care of their affairs, and providing them with all facilities. Three ministers from various countries, who visited their nationals in Iraq, have so admitted.

The editor said: After all these lies and contradictions, Bush does not forget to threaten to launch war and to hint at the "difficult decision." We tell him that Iraq does not want war; it is a country that knows the tragic results of war more than any other country. It is a country with the strongest desire for peace, security, and stability. But if the war is imposed on Iraq, then its

steadfast and sacrificing people will never hesitate to wage it in defense of their dignity, rights, and national interests. Iraq will teach those who perpetrate aggression against it or inflict harm on it a hard lesson that they will never forget. The allies and agents of the aggressor will not be excluded.

We therefore tell Bush: You can make your difficult decision, but this will turn out to be a disaster for you, your soldiers, allies, and agents, and we will only be compelled to do so because we will be defending our dignity, independence, rights, and national interests which were squandered by the British colonialists and for which we possess the power and will to restore in full, whether the colonialists like it or not.

TV Commentary Follows Speech

JN1609175790 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1710 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Following President Bush's address [to the Iraqi people], which hinted at the use of military force against Iraq, Iraq challenged the U.S. President to launch a war against it. The Iraqi television commentator said that President Bush could decide to launch war, but such a decision would be disastrous to the United States and its allies. He also said that Iraq does not want war, but if war is forced on Iraq its people will not hesitate to confront it in defense of their territory:

[Begin Iraqi television announcer video recording] The great Iraqi people have seen and heard the allegations, lies, and flagrant mixing of things and confusion that George Bush has uttered and that made him fall into exposed contradictions. The first thing to surprise a listener of Bush's talk is that he gives himself the authority to speak on behalf of the international community. Therefore we have the right to wonder if the presidents of world states have authorized Bush to speak on their behalf in such a rude manner. We know very well that this has not happened. However, Bush has given himself the authority to do so, just as he has given himself the authority to make decisions in the White House and collect signatures on them at the UN Security Council.

Bush's complex stems from his personal desire to take advantage of the current international conditions to become the world's dictator. Bush believes that the world is ready for the establishment of a new world order—an order the United States will alone lead and alone formulate in accordance with the requirements of its narrow interests. He stated this in his speech before the U.S. Congress last week. He wants to Americanize the world and since he is the U.S. President, then let him be the dictator of this world.

This complex of Bush's has not yet found a solution. If some sides have submitted—whether on their own will or by force—to his sick desire, others have said "no," a big and decisive "no." Iraq said it clearly and boldly; it said it on behalf of all the persecuted, oppressed, and

exploited. This is the secret behind the outburst of Bush's hatred against Iraq, its leader, and its heroic militant people.

Therefore, he and his Zionist and British allies continued to lie in wait for Iraq. They took many opportunities and fabricated several incidents to justify and cover acts aimed at distorting, hurting, and dealing a blow to Iraq's international reputation.

After all these lies and contradictions, Bush does not forget to threaten to launch war and he gives hints about making the difficult decision. We tell him that Iraq does not want war; it is a country that knows the tragic results of war above all other countries. It is a country with the strongest desire for peace, security, and stability. But if a war is imposed on Iraq, then its steadfast and sacrificing people will never hesitate to wage it in defense of their dignity, rights, and national interests. Iraq will teach those who perpetrate aggression against it or inflict harm on it a hard lesson that they will never forget. The allies and agents of the aggressor will not be excluded.

We therefore tell Bush that you can make your difficult decision, but this will turn out to be a disaster for you, your soldiers, allies, and agents, and we will only be compelled to do so because we will be defending our dignity, independence, rights, and national interests, which were squandered by the British colonialists and we then possessed the power and will to restore in full, whether the colonialists like it or not. [end recording]

Kuwaiti Resistance Said To Assassinate Official

NC1509152790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Doha radio announced today that the Kuwaiti national resistance has carried out a daring operation targeted at an Iraqi official in Baghdad. The 25th February group of the resistance movement said members of the group assassinated Iraqi Ba'th Party official Najib Khalaf in the Karayat Harim area near al-Qusayrin restaurant in Baghdad.

The newspaper AL-SIYASAH said that this is the first operation carried out by the group in cooperation with the Iraqi resistance in the heart of Baghdad.

Raids on Diplomatic Missions in Kuwait Denied

JN1409174590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1717 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—A responsible Iraqi source has categorically denied the reports propagated by French and Netherlands authorities regarding raids by Iraqi soldiers on the premises of former diplomatic missions in Kuwait Governorate. In a statement to INA today, the source said that there are strict orders not to enter these premises, although as of 24 August 1990 they are no longer considered diplomatic missions.

The source explained that the Iraqi authorities adhere to a delicate position on this issue in view of some considerations and not on the basis of the Vienna Convention, because the Vienna Convention does not include the former missions in Kuwait Governorate. Iraq applies this convention accurately regarding the diplomatic missions accredited to it.

169 Leave Baghdad; 'Last' Flight for Americans
*JN1509171490 Paris AFP in English 1712 GMT
15 Sep 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 15 (AFP)—A U.S.-chartered Iraqi Airways plane left here Saturday for London with 169 Western women and children on board, Iraqi aviation sources said.

The sources said the Boeing 707 had picked up 145 of the passengers in Kuwait City, then flown to Baghdad where 24 others boarded. The plane left for London at 6.30 p.m. (1430 GMT).

Most of the passengers are American, the sources said.

It was the second evacuation flight chartered by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad to leave the Iraqi capital in two days.

An Iraqi Airways Boeing 747 flew some 400 people, mostly women and children, to London late Friday. They included nationals from the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, West Germany, Japan, India, Syria and the Philippines. The Iraqi authorities have authorized Western women and children to leave Iraq and Kuwait but most Western men have been refused exit visas. Some of the men have been moved to strategic installations to deter an attack by Western forces massed in the Gulf since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The Iraqi aviation sources said Saturday's flight would be the last to evacuate American women and children from Kuwait and Iraq.

Elderly, Sick French Citizens Allowed To Leave
*JN1509202690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
2005 GMT 15 Sep 90*

[Text] An official spokesman has made the following statement:

During a meeting between His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and Ahmed ben Bella, the former Algerian President appealed to his excellency for the elderly and the sick among the French to be allowed to leave Iraq. In deference to the appeal and to give the fair-minded among the French a chance to think and act outside American and Zionist attempts at pressure, and having debated the matter with the National Assembly speaker, it has been decided to let the French elderly and sick depart Iraq as of Monday, 17 September.

Spokesman Reacts to French Measures

*JN1509195590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT
15 Sep 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Sep (INA)—In reply to the fabricated and hostile measures declared by the French Government today, an official spokesman has stated the following to INA:

The Foreign Ministry yesterday stated to the French charge d'affaires in Baghdad and to a number of Western diplomats who attended the meeting that reports about the so-called storming of French diplomatic premises and other previous diplomatic premises belonging to other Western states in the Governorate of Kuwait were unfounded. The instructions issued to the local authorities in the Governorate of Kuwait are very clear and are designed to prevent entry into these premises, although they have not been diplomatic premises since 24 August 1990. What has happened is that a French national working as an adviser at the former French Embassy in Kuwait was found at the house of a woman belonging to the former ruling family. After he was identified he was taken to the former French Embassy building and he was not hurt in any way.

It is also very clear that the measures declared by the French Government today have no justification. Those who observe the French political scene will conclude that the French Government has recently been looking for a pretext to escalate the situation and justify its hostile colonialist policy, which is completely linked with U.S. policy, to deter any criticism of that policy inside France by creating a tense and fabricated atmosphere.

Iraq, which has maintained longstanding good relations with France, has not done anything to hurt the French Government, the French people, or the French citizens in Iraq.

The spokesman also declared that the French Government is fully responsible for this fabricated escalation and its consequences.

Saddam Responds to Mitterrand Statements

*JN1609152790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1406 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] Commenting on French President Francois Mitterrand's statements, leader President Saddam Husayn has said the following:

Regardless of the emotional content of the French Government's decisions yesterday, I would like to comment on President Mitterrand's statements as follows: Iraq hoped and continues to hope and work to win France's friendship for reasons we have fully explained to French officials since 1972 and stressed in subsequent times. These reasons still exist and constitute a basis for better relations between Iraq and France. We also still remember with great appreciation France's position during the war and its assistance in the field of arms

facilities extended to us in continuation of a relationship that existed before the war and for considerations France believed were necessary. Mr. Mitterrand explained part of these considerations in his statement yesterday.

But what surprised us was the position adopted by Mr. Mitterrand's government, which continues to escalate the hostile attitude toward Iraq after embarking on this trend two years ago. All our continuous attempts to rectify this course have been futile because President Mitterrand's government has always heeded tendentious advice from inside and outside the region and was affected by the campaigns launched by the Zionist information media to wreck the bases of a two-decade relationship on which large interests between Iraq and France were based. Even the Americans were upset by this relationship because it helped improve the capabilities of national independence in both Iraq and France.

Mr. Mitterrand is one of those who give special consideration to the type of peoples' history in their future and the weight that suits them, as far as we know about Mr. Mitterrand's thinking. Therefore, we assume that he knows that the Iraqi people, who have a genuine past, insist on the existence of mutual respect and a joint desire in any relationship they and other sides seek to build. When the Iraqi people feel that the desire or the respect are not reciprocated in any relationship, neither they nor their leadership will run toward it. The biggest evidence that excuses are being created is the alleged issue of the diplomat. We hope that Mr. Mitterrand will discard emotions and investigate the truth in his own way. He will discover, after finding out that the information he received was, in the first place, inaccurate, the sort of motives behind the inaccurate story told to him.

We know that the current crisis in our region is so complicated that those who act offhandedly will be pushed to adopt methods and positions that do not suit the region and its peoples. But we expected France, out of concern for its independence and its interest, to avoid following this already tendentious and biased position. There will be other times and opportunities for France to be more accurate in its dealings if it cares to have other than this position, which has become the object of denunciation, disgust, and regret from the region's peoples. The wise should not be misled by the positions of the rulers who are isolated from their peoples and who tremble because of the revolution against them in the corners of their palaces, which are void of the minimum light of truth and credibility.

Editor Reacts to U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff

JN1609100190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—The international affairs editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has ridiculed the statements made by General Michael Dugan, chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, published in the newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST today in which he threatened to use the Air Force against specific vital targets in Iraq.

Commenting on these statements, the editor says that the Iraqi skies and vital targets are protected by the arms of the proud Iraqi hawks and also by their superb capabilities which have won the world's admiration and respect.

The editor adds: While ridiculing and mocking such statements, we would like to warn Dugan, those behind him, and all agents and traitors who turned the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] into dens for the Americans' planes that these dens will be demolished over their heads.

The editor stresses that the statements made by the chief of staff of the imperialist Air Force as well as those made by other mercenaries will neither shake the fronds of Iraqi palm trees nor waken a sleeping girl.

The international affairs editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY concludes his statement by saying: The Iraqis will be a towering mountain and united behind their leader, the symbol Saddam Husayn, may God protect and keep him, in confronting any aggression targeting its territory. The land of Iraq will remain dear, protected, and immune from Zakho to the city of al-Nida' [al-Ahmadi].

Spokesman Rejects Security Council Resolution 666

JN1609090890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—Commenting on UN Security Council [UNSC] Resolution 666 of 13 September, a Foreign Ministry official spokesman has stated the following to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

The Iraqi people, as well as the Iraqi Government, contemptuously refuse to deal with the latest humiliating and unjust resolution issued by the UNSC on Thursday on the food supply issue, considering that the United States and its Western allies procrastinated in the debates called for by a group of states to exclude food supplies and medicines from the embargo, and that the United States took up the issue and applied pressure for the issuance of this unjust resolution. This unjust resolution is no different from the other resolutions issued by the UNSC since 2 August 1990.

The issue of a people's access to food supplies can only be either natural and unrestricted or not. The measures contained in this resolution are humiliating for a lofty people who are proud of their humane legacy and their prominent contributions to the civilization of mankind. Those who pushed for the issuance of this resolution should remember that Mesopotamia was the cradle of civilization and a center for production when their forefathers were living in caves. Therefore, our creative, productive, and self-confident people who are determined to defend their rights and sovereignty, contemptuously reject the guardianship of big powers. This people will continue its just and victorious struggle relying on God, on its firm will, on its glorious Arab nation, and also on the well-meaning and honorable people throughout the world.

The basic foodstuffs that are consumed by the Iraqi people are well known. Likewise, the total Iraqi population is also well known. The supervision mandated by the UNSC resolution is only meant to humiliate and strangle a free, proud, and lofty people—a people proud of their legacy and adherence to its right. If this resolution were not meant to humiliate and starve the people, what then could be the reason for preventing the unrestricted supply of wheat, rice, children's milk, meat, tea, and sugar? Can these commodities be used for any purpose other than human consumption?

The spokesman expressed regret that many countries which previously voiced an understanding of the issue that was different from the U.S. and Western understanding, have now voted for the resolution. But, it seems that the U.S. and Western will is the one which still prevails in the formulation of the UN Security Council resolutions, and the UN Security Council once again demonstrates that it submits to the imperialist will that is hostile to the people and to mankind.

As for the UN secretary general's decision to appoint Mr. Sadruddin Aga Khan as his personal representative, the spokesman announced: Although we respect the UN Secretary General and Mr. Sadruddin Aga Khan, we cannot accept this mission because it is within the framework of this resolution which is humiliating to the Iraqi people. We expect Mr. Sadruddin Aga Khan not to accept this mission which implies humiliation to a noble Muslim people. We also hope that the UN secretary general will not proceed on this course so that it will not be said that he cooperated during his term in office in one of the darkest pages in the UN Security Council's history.

With respect to the living conditions of the foreigners residing in Iraq, particularly the Asian nationals, the spokesman affirmed that Iraq is ready to cooperate with their respective governments to secure their needs and that Iraq is doing its best within the limits of its capabilities to continue supplying them with foodstuffs and facilitating matters for those of them who wish to leave.

The spokesman announced that after coordinating with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, the society has expressed its complete readiness to coordinate and cooperate with all similar counterparts to alleviate the tribulations of foreigners residing in Iraq and to secure their food and medical needs.

Paper Claims Tunisia Bribed on League Transfer

*LD1609137690 Tehran IRNA in English 1138 GMT
16 Sep 90*

[Text] Athens, Sept. 16, IRNA—An Egyptian weekly newspaper claimed that Iraq paid Tunisia 10 million Iraqi dinars "as bribe" to refuse the transfer of Arab League headquarters from Tunis to Cairo.

"Observers have revealed that the bribe offered by Iraq to Tunisia is worth 10 million Iraqi dinars, and that Tunisia used to profit dlr. 300 million yearly from the Arab expenditure since the transfer of the league to Tunis," government controlled AKHBAR AL-YAWM said.

Last week 12 of the 21 Arab League foreign ministers gathered in Cairo and decided to transfer the league headquarters back to Cairo from Tunis, where it was shifted after Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

But Tunisia, which boycotted the meeting, rejected the decision arguing that the transfer issue should be discussed in a regular meeting of the Arab League Council and not in an emergency session that took place in Cairo.

Iraq, Egypt's ally-turned-foe, is also against the transfer.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 16 Sep

On Official Visit

*JN1609105790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1040 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] Manuchehr Motaki, Iranian deputy foreign minister for international affairs, arrived in Baghdad at noon today at the head of a delegation on an official visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the Iranian official said that his visit to Iraq comes within the framework of efforts to continue and follow up on the results of the talks that have recently been held in Tehran between Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister. He added that the issues of prisoners of war, borders, and the reopening of the Iraqi and Iranian Embassies in both countries will also be discussed.

Manuchehr Motaki was welcomed at the airport by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Wisam al-Zahawi and a number of ministry officials.

Officials Hold Talks

*JN1609193990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT
16 Sep 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—A round of talks between Iraqi and Iranian delegations was held at the Foreign Ministry today.

INA has learned that the talks dealt with the exchange of prisoners of war and the opening of embassies in each other's countries, as well as the question of opening borders and other issues relating to the normalization of relations between the two countries to secure ties of friendship and good neighborliness.

Sources close to the talks told INA that a friendly atmosphere prevailed in the talks between the two delegations based on the existing understanding between the leaders of the two countries and their central instructions.

The Iraqi delegation to the talks was headed by Wisam al-Zihawai, Foreign Ministry undersecretary, while the

Iranian side was headed by Manuchehr Mottaki, the Iranian deputy foreign minister.

Editor Answers Turkish Paper's 'Allegations'

JN1609200290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1628 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—The INA international affairs editor commented on the Turkish newspaper HURRIYET's allegations today that Iraq offered Turkey a bribe of \$1.25 billion in exchange for easing the economic embargo. He said:

This is not because this false and silly allegation is unfounded but because of the proud and civilized position of Iraq, which refuses to deal with any party in the world in terms of bribery or bargain with those who take bribes and who have personal interests divorced from their people's will.

The editor added: Despite all circumstances and for principled and ethical considerations linked with its past, present, and principles, Iraq will not bow to blackmail or to any will other than Almighty God's. Iraq's brave people will remain lofty behind their knight and symbol, Saddam Husayn, until they stop the enemies of Iraq, the Arab nation, and the Muslims.

Reactions to Gulf Events, Saudi Arms Sale

Chief of Staff Comments

TA1609182990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on 16 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, it has been over a month since the invasion of Kuwait. Do you believe the situation has become routine?

[Shomron] I do not think it is routine at this stage. The military buildup against Iraq is increasing daily, and the economic blockade is tightening. I hope that—as was stated recently—the blockade will include airspace. Therefore, I do not think the situation is static.

[Menashe] What is Israel's view of the U.S.-Saudi \$20-billion arms deal?

[Shomron] First of all, I do not know that the deal actually stands at \$20 billion, but in any event, the deal presumably includes a large number of high-quality weapons. From our viewpoint, when such a quantity of such sophisticated weapons is given to countries which formally are still in a state of war with us, this certainly does not offer a formula for stability. To ensure our technological superiority and deterrent ability in the future, I hope that this condition will be balanced. I believe that a strong State of Israel capable of deterring its enemies is a prerequisite for stability in the Middle East.

[Menashe] Will Israel receive equipment in compensation for what Saudi Arabia is receiving?

[Shomron] I do not know whether in compensation or in direct linkage, but I think there should be a balance.

[Menashe] You referred to the fact that the Iraqi Army's spare parts will wear out in the near future. You also stressed that they will be able to endure sanctions such as a food blockade, for instance.

[Shomron] It is easier to convince people to settle for less food and services for the sake of a just or important war, than to persuade a vehicle or weapons system to settle for damaged or second-rate spare parts. Therefore, where spare parts for sophisticated weapons are concerned, the problem will become serious in a short time, if it does not exist already.

[Menashe] Speaking of Jordan, you emphasized the processes that country is undergoing. Are they worrisome for us?

[Shomron] They certainly are. At present Jordan overtly supports Iraq almost to the point of unification between the two countries; such unification does not exist yet, but something resembling it does. In addition, we should pay attention to the recent rise in the importance of the Palestinian leadership: People who were absent from

Jordan for many years are there now. The safeguarding of the border between us and Jordan is largely the task of the Jordanian Army, which is made up of many Palestinians, too. This situation heralds many potential hazards; therefore, we follow the developments and are alert to any possibility of a change.

[Menashe] You spoke of Israel's preparedness vis-a-vis events in the Gulf.

[Shomron] Yes, we are preparing our troops for every eventuality. Our preparations include training, weapons, and logistics. Being ready for every possibility is the army's job.

[Menashe] The defense minister spoke of Israel's red line; that is, if a soldier or an army—he was referring to the Iraqi Army—enters Jordan, Israel will regard this as the red line.

[Shomron] The defense minister stated that the entry of Iraqi troops into Jordan is the red line, as far as Israel is concerned. I suggest, however, that we remember that a red line is not an automatic system which goes off, activating an entire military compound as soon as an Iraqi soldier steps on it. This red line is subject to consideration and to the identity of those who cross it and the nature of their intent. Nevertheless, in principle, this is a red line.

[Reporting on the chief of staff's meeting with the military correspondents on 16 September, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 16 September adds: "Referring to the submarines project, the chief of staff said that no decision on the subject has been made so far, but he is optimistic as to the prospect of finding additional new financial resources for it. The submarines are an important operational need for the Israel Defense Forces, said the chief of staff."

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 16 September, in reporting Shomron's remarks, adds that he said "the decision in principle to distribute gas masks was made six months ago, but since there is no state of emergency, the masks are not being distributed at the moment. We will distribute them in the future when the need arises, and we will do so in an orderly fashion." Shomron also said that "the Army is contemplating shortening compulsory service as of 1993 because of the increase in the number of draftees. In the first stage, reserve duty days will be cut down, and the standing army will take over these roles."]

Views Saudi Arms Deal, Syria

TA1609203890 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, by military affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky 'tonight,' place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shlonsky] Will you ask the defense establishment not to oppose the Saudi deal, but

will ask for additional systems instead? Or will you recommend that the defense establishment oppose the deal?

[Shomron] I would be glad if those abundant weapons, which I hear are bound for the Middle East, did not reach the region. At the same time, we are all familiar with and are aware of the very special situation in the Gulf today. We cannot ignore it. I hope that, at the least, a balance will be maintained from the point of view of means of warfare, because it is my firm belief that a strong State of Israel with a deterrent ability is a stabilizing factor in the Middle East.

[Shlonsky] Will you try to explain to the Americans what seems so evident: that the Saudis do not really intend to use the weapons, and that the weapons are superfluous, since—as we have seen—they have summoned the Americans to their aid in the very first crisis in the Persian Gulf?

[Shomron] The Americans are right there in Saudi Arabia, and they are certainly perfectly aware of the situation and trends there.

[Shlonsky] Today the Syrians publicized the fact that they are moving a division from their defense setup to the Gulf. Does this mean they are calm with regard to the Golan Heights, as far as we are concerned?

[Shomron] First of all, I fervently hope so. Also, several changes which may prove to be dramatic have occurred in the Middle East conflict. So far, however, all the countries which—according to their own declaration—are in a state of war with us—including both the Saudis and, I regret to say, the Syrians—still speak of Israel as their chief common enemy. We should not forget this fact even in the face of an alliance between these countries and the United States.

Pazner on Balance of Power

TA1509182890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] If reports that the United States plans to sell Saudi Arabia arms worth up to \$20 billion are accurate, this may gravely affect the balance of power in the Middle East. This according to Avi Pazner, Prime Minister Shamir's media adviser, who added that Israel is checking the reports because the package appears to contain an enormous amount of sophisticated weaponry. U.S. Administration officials said Washington will sell Saudi Arabia fighter planes, tanks, missiles, and other arms to counter any military threats from Iraq. It would be the biggest American peacetime arms deal with any country, and the officials said Israel would be offered additional arms too.

THE WASHINGTON POST reported today that Defense Minister Moshe Arens will try to persuade his American counterpart, Dick Cheney, to provide Israel with satellite links when they meet at the Pentagon this week. The linkup to U.S. satellites would give Israel precise information on Iraqi military sites.

The defense minister and the director general of the Defense Ministry, David Ivri, leave tonight for the United States. Voice of Israel's military reporter says Arens will also urge Washington to provide Israel with further military aid and arms. Our reporter adds that Arens is also expected to discuss the funding of the second stage of the Arrow antiballistic missile project, as well as the reports that the United States will provide Saudi Arabia with a large arms package.

'Absolute Objection' Expressed

TA1709101790 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
17 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by the DAVAR correspondent in the United States and by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Sources in the prime minister's bureau said last night that the scope of the U.S.-Saudi arms deal is "frightening." They emphasized that Israel will express to the U.S. Administration its absolute objection to the deal. They added, nevertheless, that it is not clear whether Israel or the Jewish lobby would launch a public campaign against it. [passage omitted]

Embassy in U.S. 'Astounded'

TA1509204090 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] In reaction to the arms deals planned between the United States and Saudi Arabia, the Israeli Embassy in Washington this evening announced that Israel is astounded by these deals, and that the degree of danger facing Israel as a result is very serious. Israel expects the U.S. Administration to look into ways to prevent a change in the strategic balance in the Middle East and to maintain Israel's qualitative edge and security. Our army affairs correspondent reports that this refers to long-term arms deals.

Arens To Request 'New' U.S. Weaponry

TA1709034090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Moshe Arens meets his U.S. counterpart in Washington today. Arens is expected to raise with Defense Secretary Dick Cheney the huge U.S. arms deal with Saudi Arabia and its effects on Middle East stability. [passage omitted]

The defense minister will reportedly ask the United States for new U.S. weaponry currently unavailable in any other country. A senior military source said Arens will not request that Washington cancel the Israeli military debt to the United States, although the Bush administration eliminated Egypt's \$7.1 billion debt.

Ministers Return From USSR, Talks With Gorbachev

Moda'i, Ne'eman Interviewed

TA1609175490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Interview with Yitzhaq Moda'i, finance minister; and Professor Yuval Ne'eman, minister of science and technology, energy and infrastructure; by Meron Tzur at Ben-Gurion Airport—live]

[Text] [Moda'i] I was just asked whether President Gorbachev addressed current events in Iraq and Kuwait, and my response was: Yes, the president addressed the issue at great length. He referred to talks he held earlier on that very subject with U.S. President Bush and said that he was pleased that they had reached an agreement or an understanding on the issue. Perhaps the most characteristic statement President Gorbachev made in this context was: Can you imagine what would have happened had the USSR and the United States stood on different sides of the fence on this development in the Persian Gulf?

[Tzur] Mr. Finance Minister, can the historic meeting with President Gorbachev, followed by the meeting with the finance minister—the No. 2 figure in the top Soviet leadership—and with a host of other senior Soviet leaders, lead to the establishment of economic ties—and their practical implementation—as soon as the next few weeks or months?

[Moda'i] Right now I can mention only a few concrete steps. If I were at liberty to talk.... [changes thought] But I can talk about great potential. Our country currently faces the enormous task of absorbing a wave of aliyah involving 1 million new citizens, which may or may not incidentally be Soviet Jews. We need a breakthrough in exporting Israeli products. These days I can hardly think of a larger potential market than the one that may open to us in the USSR.

[Tzur] Perhaps one of the examples of this could be the opening of an Israeli chamber of commerce in Moscow, and the Soviet request that Israel speed up dealing with the issue of the overhaul of Tupolevs by the Israel Aircraft Industries; or another example, the possibility that areas in Uzbekistan be irrigated using a method that would permit so-called dry farming.

[Moda'i] With respect to the first part of your question, that is true and it is a fact. As for the two other issues, we did not deal with them, although they were mentioned in our meetings. Jewish and Israeli businessmen have already been handling these issues in the most concrete fashion, so that there was no point in discussing matters which are in essence technical or commercial, certainly not with the president or vice president of the USSR.

[Tzur] It was suggested in Jerusalem today that the Soviet Union wishes to supply Israel with oil in exchange for agricultural produce. How accurate is this report?

[Moda'i] It is a clever guess, but at this stage it is nothing but a guess. Of course, in our talks we reviewed broad options for exporting and importing, including among others the subjects you mentioned, but there were no specific discussions. The topics were mentioned in an overall framework, so I suggest we show a little patience. We still need to study the possibilities carefully. What we saw and heard is merely a drop in the bucket. Clearly the USSR is a vast and hungry market. One must also bear in mind that contrary to all the wisecracks I have been hearing here about what they will pay with or how, let me just say that I wish Israel had the means the Soviet Union has to pay for the goods or services it purchases.

[Tzur] Now over to Yuval Ne'eman, minister of science and technology, and energy and infrastructure. Prof. Ne'eman, do you think that the meetings in Moscow herald a scientific breakthrough for cooperation, perhaps in high-tech industries, between Israel and the Soviet Union?

[Ne'eman] This issue was under discussion even before this meeting and did not require the direct involvement of the Soviet president for progress to be made. My predecessor, Minister Weizman, also visited Moscow to discuss this issue, and in June I held talks there on the same issue. We made great progress on the matter. I expect Professor Marchuk, the Soviet deputy prime minister, who is de facto minister of science and president of the Academy of Sciences, here on 15 November at the head of a large delegation that will come here to conclude the negotiations which will be finalized in an agreement.

No Gorbachev Message to Shamir

TA1709062490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and Science Minister Yuval Ne'eman returned from the Soviet Union last night, saying Israel's economic relationship with Moscow is to be markedly improved. Moda'i declined to give details, but discussed the outcome of his visit with reporter Le'a Zinder:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Zinder] Just one more question, Mr. Moda'i. Are you taking a message to Prime Minister Shamir from President Gorbachev?

[Moda'i] Not in the sense that we have a written message or in the sense that we have an oral message, but the strength of whatever you define as a message is conveying to the prime minister the topics that had been discussed. We did start—I did start my words by conveying to President Gorbachev the greetings of Prime Minister Shamir and the Israeli Government, because I wanted to give the strongest flavor of political relationships to this very important meeting. [end recording]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 17 September in a report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky and news agencies on pages 1 and 10 notes that "Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev sent a personal message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir,

returning Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and Science and Energy Minister Yuval Ne'eman said when they came home from Moscow yesterday.

["They declined to say what it contained but said that Gorbachev appreciated Israel's 'low profile' in the Persian Gulf crisis."

[Later the report states that "discussions about the most crucial issue, the pace of Soviet Jewish emigration, remain undisclosed.

["While Moda'i and Ne'eman insisted that they achieved a dramatic breakthrough in ties between the two countries—they cited another participant in the talks, Gorbachev's deputy Aleksandr Yakovlev, as saying that ties between the two countries have reached a 'new level'—it remains to be seen if full diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union are really around the corner.

["Arye Levin, Israel's consular head, said the talks were one more step in the process of renewing ties."]

Ne'eman on Soviet Oil Deals

TA1709104590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure, science and technology, said that the Soviet market will be open to Israel for joint economic transactions in the near future. As things stand now, everything depends on maintaining contacts, Israel's capabilities, and the amount of flexibility shown by the Soviet bureaucracy.

Ministers Ne'eman and Moda'i this morning briefed the prime minister on their meetings with Mikhail Gorbachev and other officials in Moscow. Minister Ne'eman asserted that there was no Soviet decision to sell oil to Israel; however, there were plans to establish joint oil refineries. He refused to explain if the intention was to refine Soviet oil in Israel, but said that the refineries can be built in both the Soviet Union and in Israel.

Ne'eman added that the USSR intends to ease restrictions on Jewish immigration. This is also in their interest, he said, because the Soviets are not happy with seeing the long lines of Jews waiting to get out.

In response to our correspondent's question on whether this indicates an imminent agreement on direct flights from the USSR to Israel, Ne'eman replied that he would not say yes or no.

Sharon Comments on Talks in USSR

TA1509111590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0905 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon in Paris "after a visit to the Soviet Union" by 'Adi Talmor—live]

[Text] [Talmor] Shalom and a good Sabbath, Mr. Sharon.

[Sharon] Shalom.

[Talmor] Were you in the know regarding the arrival of Ministers Moda'i and Ne'eman in Moscow, or did it take you too by surprise, as it did the Foreign Ministry?

[Sharon] I knew about the possibility of such a visit, certainly about the possibility of a visit by Minister Moda'i. I knew that from Armand Hammer, whom I met a few days ago. I am pleased with every visit by an Israeli personality. I think it is most important to maintain contacts with the hundreds of thousands of Jews who, I would say, are now making every effort to reach Israel. Certainly it is important to establish ties with economic and government bodies.

[Talmor] So after several days in the USSR, Mr. Sharon, what good tidings do you bring us from there?

[Sharon] One issue is that of the participation of Soviet construction companies in building projects in Israel. I have lower expectations for the importation of prefabricated homes from the USSR, but certainly there are technologies and speedy construction methods in the Soviet Union. This, after all, is a country that has faced such problems for years. They definitely have interesting methods.

Talks were held in this area, and I visited plants and homes under construction. This will be followed up in talks in Israel with Soviet construction companies beginning as early as next week. Naturally, other meetings were also held. I was personally invited to the Soviet Union by Yerushenko, deputy prime minister of the Russian Republic, and met with people such as the minister of industry and economics [title as heard] of the Russian Republic, which with 170 million residents is the largest and most central republic in the USSR. Other questions, involving economic cooperation, were also raised. There is great interest there in cooperation in agricultural and other technological areas, as well as in tourism. There is a desire for cooperation.

[Talmor] Although you did not participate in the cabinet session in which Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i's economic plan was endorsed, it was reported that you support it. Is that so?

[Sharon] I conveyed my support for it through the prime minister, with whom I consulted before my departure. Of course, I did not see the final draft of the plan, but nevertheless I can say that it was aimed at making the Israeli public exert maximum efforts in the sphere of immigrant absorption in light of the new situation in which there is a possibility that 1 million Jews could arrive in a few years, and possibly more thereafter. I would like to say something in that context: The Jewish people have not yet harnessed themselves to the mission of absorbing immigration in Israel. The Jewish people's contribution to date has been very small. Yet it is very hard to expect the Jewish people all over the world to enlist if we ourselves do not do everything we can to absorb aliyah. If we do, we will be morally justified in

confronting the Jewish people with greater demands. They can and must do a lot more.

[Talmor] Meanwhile, however, people here claimed that you made promises to the Soviet Jews and offered too rosy a picture, which might come as a shock to them once they confront reality here, with the housing and jobs shortage.

[Sharon] I do not know what the reports in Israel were, but I explained to the Soviet Jews that there definitely are difficulties, but that there are also solutions. Those who think that only reports about problems should emanate from Israel simply do not understand what is happening among Soviet Jews. Therefore, anyone who comes from Israel to explain that, as past experience shows, they will be forced to live in tents, even if better ones [compared to those that housed the mass immigration from Morocco in the 1950's], does not comprehend the grave damage he causes. All those who offer gloomy descriptions from Israel about unemployment cannot fathom the evil they are doing.

What Israel should do, instead of spreading these alarming rumors, is to pull itself up by its bootstraps and create housing opportunities—which is possible. It is necessary to overcome the bureaucracy in its various shapes and start building properly. We should put an end to the struggle and the attempts by certain officials to throw a monkey wrench into the process; rather, we must concentrate and work. The same holds true for jobs. It is necessary to explain to the Jews—as I did—that there are difficulties. I appeared before hundreds of Jews on various occasions. There are problems, but Israel is capable of solving them. Let me repeat: We can do it. Therefore, all those who speak viciously should pipe down. Instead, everyone should get together to create possibilities. That is what is required now.

[Talmor] Finally, Minister Ari'el Sharon, when you appeared on our program a few weeks ago you suggested that the Americans should immediately take action in Iraq. As we all know, several weeks have elapsed since then, the Iraqis are still in Kuwait, and the Americans are not taking any action. What do you think about it?

[Sharon] I can again reiterate that it would be extremely dangerous for the Middle East, for the world at large, and certainly—though not exclusively—for Israel if, at the end of the current crisis, the Mesopotamian despot Saddam Husayn continues to control Kuwait and maintains his gigantic weapons arsenal: the hundreds of aircraft, thousands of tanks, missiles outfitted with chemical warheads that can reach any point in Israel and also other places in the Middle East, or the huge caches of gases that the Iraqis have already used—we know they have. It will simply be one of the gravest things that could happen.

One must understand that such an end to that conflict is extremely dangerous, and my opinion on the matter has not changed.

[Talmor] Minister Ari'el Sharon, thank you very much.

[Sharon] Thank you.

Further Reports, Comments on USSR Contacts

Gorbachev Cited on Gulf Crisis

TA1709095790 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
17 Sep 90 p A1

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] In his meeting with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and Science and Technology Minister Yuval Ne'eman, Mikhail Gorbachev stepped down from the linkage Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze insisted on regarding the solution to the Gulf crisis and the solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict. Still, he adhered to the international conference idea.

One of the ministers who participated in the meeting told MA'ARIV last night that while Gorbachev did not raise the Palestinian issue during the meeting, he explained that an international conference was necessary to defuse the dangers posed by Saddam Husayn. The minister reported that the territories were mentioned in the conversation only once, in the context of Soviet aliyah. "Mubarak told me Israel was settling new immigrants in the territories, so we approached the Israeli Government. Once it responded to our questions in the negative, the issue was dropped," said Gorbachev.

Jerusalem has recently received clear signals that the Soviet Union no longer insists on linking the solution to the Gulf crisis with withdrawal from the territories. In his briefing in Moscow on 7 September (after Shevardnadze's remarks), Foreign Ministry spokesman Genadiy Gerasimov said that linking the Iraqi pullback from Kuwait to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories would only strike both issues off the agenda.

Similar signals were picked up following Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein's meeting with Chistyakov, head of the Soviet representation in Tel Aviv.

'Breakthrough' Seen in Trade Links

TA1709102190 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew
17 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by economic correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] The volume of Israeli exports to the Soviet Union is gradually increasing, even though the growth rate is slow. Since 1989 there has been a trend toward establishing commercial links between Israel and the Soviet Union, while previously there were no commercial contacts whatsoever.

Total Israeli exports to the Soviet Union reached 8.6 million shekels in 1989, and were mainly comprised of nylon filaments and medical equipment. Exports to the USSR during the first eight months of 1990 totaled \$3.7 million; the main products were nylon filaments, machines and mechanical instruments, and chemical products.

Imports during the same period came to \$3.5 million and were mainly made up of equipment and goods brought by Soviet immigrants. It should be noted that the main limitations on trade development between the two countries are: the impossibility of purchasing goods with foreign currency in the Soviet Union, and the Soviet law prohibiting the export of unprocessed raw materials. Nevertheless, mutual trade relations have been fostered over the past two years and a breakthrough which will lead to an increase in trade is anticipated. The main means of this may be the barter sale of Soviet oil to Israel in return for Israeli goods and services.

Moves Seen Aimed at U.S.

TA1609105890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
16 Sep 90 p A1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Winking at George Bush"]

[Text] The first meeting between a president of the Soviet Union and Israeli cabinet ministers indeed merits front-page headlines. This event heralds yet another important chapter in the revival of Soviet-Israeli relations. This is undoubtedly another expression of Moscow's willingness to normalize relations and another sign that the Kremlin has no qualms about having relations with Israel in the open and does not give a damn about the Arabs.

Nevertheless, the Soviet leader's consent to grant an audience to two Israeli right-wingers was not meant to deride the Israeli peace camp, as personified by former Finance Minister Shim'on Peres, who in vain tried to get to the place where his successor sat yesterday. Although the Soviets know all about Israeli leaders' "rejoicing" in each other's successes, that is not what the Soviet president—who is anguishing over almost life and death matters—had in mind when he agreed to the meeting.

Last week Gorbachev devoted almost two hours of his precious time to Professor Eliyahu Zemtsov, a controversial figure among Israeli Sovietologists, to say the least. Zemtsov was the same man who accompanied the ministers to their meeting with Gorbachev.

Still, good contacts in high places in the Kremlin are not enough to earn the Israeli ministers a three-hour chat with Gorbachev. On the other hand, the meeting does not indicate a dramatic change in Soviet Middle East policy. The change occurred when perestroika, which advocates the solution of conflicts through diplomatic means and a move away from deals with the Third World toward more lucrative transactions with the Western world, began to gain ground.

Gorbachev does not perceive Israel only as a U.S. ally. Like many others in the East Bloc, Gorbachev believes in the quasi anti Semitic myth of "Jewish power" being able to pull strings, particularly those leading to the hearts of congressmen on Capitol Hill.

Gorbachev made good on his promise to Zemtsov "to work with any government in Israel." He granted an audience to two of the most hardline ministers in the cabinet. His aides probably told him that Moda'i is scheduled to go to Washington in a week to ask the United States to write off Israel's debt in a bid to curb the socioeconomic collapse looming over Israel due to the opening of the Soviet gates to Jewish emigration. The joint projects and barter deals Israel can offer the big and crippled superpower will not salvage Gorbachev. He is talking to Moda'i and his eyes are turned toward Armand Hammer; he is smiling at Ne'eman and winking at George Bush. Nevertheless, in view of his difficult situation at home, he is not very likely to risk a confrontation with his own Foreign Ministry, which has not yet budged from its long-standing position that Israel must "earn" the resumption of relations by paying a territorial price.

Commentary on Developing Relations

TA1609104890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
16 Sep 90 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "Paying Back in Political Currency"]

[Excerpts] The 150 minutes Yitzhaq Moda'i and Yuval Ne'eman spent with Mikhail Gorbachev may some day be remembered as "a historic meeting," to quote the finance minister. In yesterday's radio interviews with Dalya Ya'iri the two Israeli ministers did not disclose what was said in the long session about the Soviet position on the Middle East conflict. Although their silence may indicate Soviet intransigence and conservatism, the Kremlin is not very likely to go on treating the Israeli-Arab issue as "business as usual" at a time when both the entire region and Gorbachev's regime are undergoing such fundamental revolutions. It may be a coincidence, but a symbolic reminder nevertheless, that while Gorbachev and Yakovlev were conferring with Moda'i and Ne'eman in Moscow, James Baker was being hosted by Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

The interest the Soviets find in Moda'i and Ne'eman was made plain yesterday. Just like East Europe, Zaire, and other hungry countries worldwide, Gorbachev and Yakovlev hope that Israel—particularly through the Jews in the West—may be able to help extricate the Soviet Union from the lengthy economic crisis it has been experiencing.

Despite its attraction for every Israeli manufacturer and farmer, the Soviet market has no buying potential. Furthermore, it is doubtful that Israel can open the European and U.S. markets before the Soviets do. Soviet leaders may still be hung up on the idea that the Jews carry an exaggerated weight in the world economy, and herein may lie the secret of the frequent meetings with Israeli ministers. This approach will force Israel to proceed very carefully, lest it make the Soviets entertain false hopes.

Despite these unpromising conditions, a new opportunity has clearly opened before Jerusalem. Yitzhaq Shamir's lucky government will reap the fruit of the tree it refused to plant. Since 1985 the Likud government has persistently abstained from recognizing the democratic revolution taking place in the Soviet Union. This erroneous perception found Israel ill-prepared for the opening of the Soviet gates to massive waves of immigration and was the reason for its objections to an international conference on the unfounded grounds that Israel has no chance of finding an attentive ear in the Kremlin. It is now clear that its opposition to an international conference—and even to the “international opening” proposed by Shim'on Peres, which enraged the Likud and Yitzhaq Rabin—did not derive from a fear of Moscow's hostility, but was a means of evading real progress toward a political solution.

The opportunity is not yet entirely lost. Eduard Shevardnadze's unacceptable proposal last week to link the crisis in the Persian Gulf to a solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict was categorically rejected by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and his line was immediately embraced by Bush. Nevertheless, the need to summon an international conference has not yet been struck off the international agenda. It will rise again with greater intensity and determination as soon as the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis is settled. After all, Washington—which is now working on a formidable \$20-billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia—has already made it plain that it will agree to grant Moscow a foothold in the Middle East.

Shamir, who usually favors a sit-and-do-nothing policy, will no longer be able to look the other way. He can see that the Russians are coming. So, why let the Americans twist his arm? The government would be well advised to revise its position and reach out to the Soviets of its own free will. Political conditions have been created in which Israel—if it really wants a political solution, as Moshe Arens has been saying all along—should be interested in their presence and influence in the Middle East.

Due to its desire to see Israel and world Jewry as a conduit to the West's markets, and because it is very hard up, Moscow could repay some of the debt with political currency. Jerusalem is interested in U.S. supremacy in the Middle East, but not necessarily to the exclusion of everybody else, certainly not at a time when the enfeebled superpower is headed by Gorbachev and Yakovlev. Besides, many political roads lead to an international conference.

Cabinet Briefed on USSR Visits, Water Shortage

TA1609120390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] The weekly cabinet session ended a few minutes ago. The cabinet discussed the water shortage in Israel. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports on the session from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem:

The water shortage was one of the main topics in today's discussion, but let us open with the slightly more interesting issues. Foreign Minister David Levi gave a very detailed briefing on his U.S. tour and his meetings with President Bush and Secretary of State Baker. Levi reported that the Americans promised him that all of Israel's security requirements will be met and that they thereby eased his apprehensions over the Saudi military buildup. The Americans calmed Israel, promising that all its defense needs will be provided for. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 16 September, in a report by Jack Katzenell, adds that Levi “described the talks, the entire visit, as very successful.”]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared Minister Levi's report as having been presented to the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, and he asked the ministers not to talk about it outside the meeting hall. [Katzenell reports on Levi's review of his visit to the cabinet: “I am told that Levi did inform the cabinet of details of information which has not appeared in the press so far, which the public does not yet know about, and that this information did have to do with the U.S. promises for arms and other security supplies. As you know, these Israeli requests included the Patriot missile.”]

Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon reported on his visit to the Soviet Union. [Katzenell adds that “this visit also was described as very successful.”] And while on the subject of visits to the Soviet Union, Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz raised the issue of Ministers Moda'i and Ne'eman's meetings with Mikhail Gorbachev on the Sabbath. I do not know whether they held meetings on the Sabbath or not, Peretz said, but he asked that, in the future, ministers refrain from holding official meetings on the Sabbath. The leaders of the world, said the immigrant absorption minister, will no doubt understand this: The greatest gift Judaism gave the world is the day of rest. Therefore, everyone will welcome such behavior, said the immigrant absorption minister. At the conclusion of the debate, the prime replied to Minister Peretz, saying that he is not familiar with the details of Ne'eman and Moda'i's meetings in the USSR. At any rate, he said, the practice has always been that no official meetings are held on the Sabbath, and that practice should continue in the future as well. [Katzenell adds in his report: “I am not suggesting that a cabinet crisis is brewing” over the desecration of the Sabbath, “but the prime minister did treat Rabbi Peretz's complaint very very seriously and he said that after the two ministers return home, the matter will be investigated.”]

As for the review of the water situation, the cabinet did not adopt any resolutions, but let us note an interesting tidbit: Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan, who usually listens more than he talks, spoke for a full hour.

Further on Cabinet Session

*TA1609191790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] The friendly atmosphere that prevailed in the meetings with President Bush and Secretary Baker had practical manifestations, Foreign Minister Levi told the cabinet today, both with respect to the promises for the supply of weapons as well as in regard to reporting and updating. Also, this morning the foreign minister received a report from Secretary of State Baker on the talks he held in Damascus with Hafiz al-Asad. That report was delivered by Ambassador William Brown.

As for the \$400-million U.S. guarantees, the negotiations will continue, reported Levi. And with regard to the political process, the foreign minister suggested to his interlocutors in Washington that the process be promoted without entering into Baker's questions—toward which end, he said, it is necessary to be creative.

The historic meeting between Ministers Moda'i and Ne'eman with Mikhail Gorbachev in the Kremlin was not broached in the cabinet today. The ministers made do with a report by Ari'el Sharon on his own visit to the Soviet Union last week:

[Begin recording] [Sharon] I believe it is possible to accelerate the departure of Jews, to which I attribute tremendous importance.

[Golan] The difficulties they should expect here notwithstanding?

[Sharon] Despite the difficulties that already exist and that they will face in the future. After all, we have encountered difficulties before. Nowadays we number 4 million Jews, who can clearly absorb another 1 million Jews, and who must do so. [end recording]

The U.S.-Saudi weapons deal was also mentioned during the cabinet's security briefing. This deal involves \$18 billion, or more than twice the amount in the original information. It includes building army bases for the Saudis, the sale of helicopters, rocket launchers, F-15's, tanks, and more. This will be the topic Defense Minister Moshe Arens, who has left for the United States, will discuss in Washington tomorrow.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT on 16 September, in a report by Jack Katzenell, adds: "After the cabinet session, Ari'el Sharon told reporters these arms would put a threat to Israel because nobody could say what the future of the Saudi regime would be, nor into whose hands the weapons would fall. But Sharon said the immediate danger lay in Saddam Husayn, with his chemical weapons and his huge arsenal." Sharon says: "That is a danger for the Middle East, it's a danger for the world, and no doubt dangerous for Israel. That should be clear; that cannot be, I would say, the end of this crisis; or the crisis cannot be brought to an end while

Saddam Husayn is holding Kuwait and his impression of deadly weapons. That is what is important to understand." Katzenell then says "Sharon would not elaborate. He would not say whether he was urging the United States to start a war with Iraq or advocating the overthrow of Saddam Husayn."]

Levi Report Reviewed

*TA1609165790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] In today's cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister David Levi reviewed his U.S. visit, which ended last week. Levi said he had been promised that the Americans would take no action connected with Israel behind our backs. Proof of this can be found in the fact that already this morning U.S. Ambassador to Israel William Brown briefed Minister Levi on Secretary Baker's talks with President al-Asad in Syria. The facts which emerged from Ambassador Brown's report were: Syria sides with the United States against the Iraqis; it will take action in Iran to prevent any violation of the embargo against Iraq.

The foreign minister further reported that in the coming days, Israel can expect affirmative replies to its request to receive certain weapons systems, including a Patriot battery.

Replying to Minister Sciaki's question, Foreign Minister Levi stated that the United States realizes perfectly well that in the current crisis, Baker's previous questions have lost much of their relevance. [passage omitted]

In the part of the meeting devoted to security affairs, the cabinet was informed that the United States is presumably not interested in escalating the crisis. Also, the Americans are not trying to starve Iraq; therefore, the United States has somewhat lifted the economic blockade. The Americans will conclude their military buildup in the Gulf in the second half of October. At this stage, expanding the blockade to air space is not on the agenda.

As for the U.S.-Saudi arms deal, it appears that the deal stands at \$18 billion and includes the construction of bases and airports, 48 Apache helicopters, rocket launchers, over 100 F-15 aircraft, tanks, and other military equipment.

Arens Says Peace Talks With Syria 'Welcome'

*TA1609194990 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said tonight that Israel will ask the United States for financial aid and new technologies which will allow Israel to develop sophisticated weapons locally in a bid to maintain the qualitative edge over Arab countries.

The defense minister added that in his meeting tomorrow in Washington with U.S. Defense Secretary

Richard Cheney, he will explain that since the United States sells the most modern weapons to many Middle East countries, Israel requires the above-mentioned means to maintain its military superiority.

Replying to our correspondent Ya'ir Stern's question, Mr. Arens said that Israel would welcome peace talks with Syria, if such a possibility is indeed raised.

U.S.-Syrian Dialogue Not Worrisome

TA1609122290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
16 Sep 90 p B1

[Commentary by Avner Yaniv: "A Dialogue Is Not An Alliance"]

[Excerpts] Those who fear that Israel may be hurt by the Bush Administration's courting of Syria may rest assured: There is no danger whatsoever that the improvement in relations between Washington and Damascus will reverse alliances. Syria's inclusion in the strategic consensus the United States has been striving to establish will significantly help offset the Syrian threat against Israel and perhaps lead to progress in the peace process. Admittedly, there is something humiliating in the fact that Baker went on television to give Israel the White House's phone number, when contrasted with the enthusiasm and eagerness he has been displaying in his visits to Cairo, Ankara, and Damascus. There are clear signs, however, that he is not trying to ignore Israel. On the contrary, he has been trying to use the creating of a joint effort against Saddam Husayn as a lever to stabilize Israeli-Arab relations.

The incomprehensible fear about a reversal in the alliances is indirectly based on a dated historical example: the efforts of the Eisenhower Administration to create a regional military alliance without Israel and, to a certain extent, even at Israel's expense. Things have changed since then. Israel's relations with the United States have expanded and grown so much that a change that would relegate Israel to the sidelines is inconceivable. The extent of this change is evident in the two decades of quasi-intimacy between the United States and Egypt. On the face of it, these relations should have undermined the alliance between the United States and Israel, but quite the opposite has happened: To receive U.S. grants the Egyptian president must adhere to the peace treaty with Israel. For U.S. relations with Syria to reach the intimacy existing between Cairo and Washington both countries would have to overcome deep-rooted and vast suspicions. [passage omitted]

This suspicion and mistrust cannot be eradicated all at once, not even by shock treatment such as the Iraqi "anschluss" of Kuwait. Hence, what is to be expected is an expansion of the U.S.-Syrian dialogue that began in the summer of 1988 with their joint search for an acceptable president for Lebanon.

As far as Israel is concerned, this is good news. A Syria engaged in an intensive dialogue with the United States

and dependent on U.S. aid would find it very hard to launch a war against Israel. In the event of a misunderstanding due to a local incident in southern Lebanon or northern Jordan (if—not when—King Husayn falls), the United States could establish a very effective channel of communication to settle the crisis.

As soon as the Gulf crisis settles down and contacts for a solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict resume, Syria will become far more involved than in the past. The detente between Jerusalem and Damascus, which has been modestly under way since the Israeli Army pulled out of Lebanon, will probably gather additional momentum. Although it is a long way from this to the fulfillment of the visions of the prophet Isaiah, those who are prepared to settle for less may definitely view Israel's relations with Syria with a sense of optimism and security.

Mosad Chief Briefs Knesset Members on Ostrovsky

TA1609173290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] This afternoon, the Mosad chief briefed the Intelligence and Special Services Subcommittee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on the Ostrovsky affair and on the relevant steps taken. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the session was attended by committee Chairman Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, Likud Knesset Member [MK] Yehoshu'a Sagi, and MK Shlomo Hilel from the Alignment. MK Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer is abroad, and was therefore absent from the session.

Book Termed 'Bunch of Lies'

TA1409125690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] This afternoon the prime minister's bureau issued its first official reaction to Victor Ostrovsky's book on the Mosad. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's adviser, told our political correspondent Arye Golan that Ostrovsky is a dubious and untrustworthy character who committed a vile deed because of greed and the desire to settle a score with the Mosad. He noted that the vast majority of the revelations in the book are founded on lies. Ostrovsky served in the Mosad for only a short time as a trainee and had no access to all the places he mentions in the book. His book includes very few facts, while on the other hand it contains a vast number of imaginary inventions and libel. All in all, this is a bunch of lies, said Avi Pazner.

Shamir Accepts 'Some' USSR Mideast Involvement

TA1509195290 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by 'Iman-u'el Halperin in Jerusalem "this evening"—videorecorded]

[Text] [Shamir] I hope the meeting of the two ministers in Moscow is significant and will yield results. I do not know the details yet; I will hear them tomorrow. Still,

this is a first meeting between Israeli ministers and the Soviet president, which indicates an attitude of consideration and appreciation for the State of Israel.

[Halperin] Do you believe the Soviet Union may now assume a more active role in the political process in the Middle East?

[Shamir] Look, we have never been opposed to some Soviet involvement in Mideast affairs. We are always prepared to consult with the USSR. It would have surely been better and easier had we had diplomatic relations, but we hope such relations will come about in the future.

[Halperin] Nevertheless, the Soviets make the establishment of diplomatic relations conditional on our consent to an international conference.

[Shamir] Well, it is difficult to hope that we will accept this condition.

[Halperin] Sir, when do you intend to travel to the Soviet Union?

[Shamir] If the need arises, I will.

[Halperin] Allow me another question, sir, on Victor Ostrovsky and his book about the Mosad. You said the book is all lies and libel. Still, has real damage been caused to the Mosad, to Mosad people around the world?

[Shamir] Possibly. This book is full of slander, and some people are inclined to believe in slander. Our legal experts believed there was a chance to prevent the publication of the book, but this was to no avail. Well, this is the way things stand now.

[Halperin] Have the legal experts erred then?

[Shamir] Possibly; anyway, it is now a fact.

[Halperin] Thank you, sir, and a good year to you.

[Shamir] Have a good year.

Editorial Says Bush 'Wasted' Opportunity

TA1709134990 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
17 Sep 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Bush Wasted a Golden Opportunity for Peace!"]

[Text] In his address broadcast by Iraqi television yesterday evening, U.S. President George Bush said that "he wants peace." He did not explain how peace can be achieved, nor could he define a framework for it. He did not even talk about negotiations for achieving this peace that he desires.

Someone wanting peace does not turn the waters and territories of the Gulf into an assembly point for navies, battleships, fighter planes, armored vehicles, missiles, soldiers, and equipment. Nor does he pressure the countries of the world to send tools of war and destruction.

Someone wanting peace does not cut off every arm extended toward peace. Nor does he thwart every Arab attempt to contain the crisis within an Arab diplomatic framework. By his decision to place his warships in the Gulf on a state of maximum alert hours after the eruption of the Gulf crisis, followed by his hasty decision to send his armies to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, President Bush foiled the efforts of Arab leaders who tried to contain the crisis by diplomatic means.

President Bush was talking to Iraqi women, children, the elderly, youth, and the sick, against whom he has imposed a blockade of food and medicine. Did the U.S. President forget that Iraqi mothers are trying to get milk for their children, and that Iraq's sick are not finding medicine because of the blockade imposed against them by the United States?

How can people suffering from a shortage of food and medicine understand President Bush when he says that he wants peace? As far as the Iraqis are concerned, a blockade means famine for women and children and death for the sick. Above everything else, peace requires a sincere desire. No matter how much we try, we cannot find any evidence of a desire for peace in all the decisions adopted by the U.S. Administration.

If the President was really seeking peace, Iraq's consent to broadcast an address to the Iraqi people was a golden opportunity, but he did not put forward a single idea that would raise hopes for establishing peace. He sufficed with giving titles and descriptions, as if he was really talking to all the forces lining up against Iraq, not the Iraqi people.

Iraq is a principal party in the Gulf crisis. Why does the U.S. Administration reject the principle of conducting talks or negotiations with Iraq? Why did it turn down all Iraqi initiatives calling for the establishment of peace? And why does President Bush insist on talking in the language of weapons and on starving the Iraqi people?

By what authority President Bush gave himself the right to speak in the name of the world does not concern us. We have a different position on the issue. All we can say is that rather than uttering threats and promises and giving a lecture and lesson, President Bush wasted a golden opportunity for peace and for addressing the Iraqi people in the language of peace. Anyone really wanting peace should enter into immediate negotiations with Iraq to achieve it.

Foreign Minister Leaves for EC Talks in Brussels

TA1609203690 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi left this afternoon for Brussels where he will attend the annual meeting of the EC's Council for Cooperation. Tomorrow he will meet with the EC's 12 foreign ministers in an attempt to alter trade agreements to favor Israel in anticipation of the 1992 European unification.

Prince Hasan Comments on Arab Solution, Sanctions
JN1409113890 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by an unidentified reporter from Canada's CBC Television Network, via satellite; date not given; in English—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Crown Prince Hasan, the big news here is that Iran's ayatollah has called for a new holy war. Does this complicate your delicate domestic situation at the moment?

[Hasan] The exact reference was to the security structure which I believe Secretary of State James Baker found a great deal of difficulty in denying the other day. The reference was also made by Mrs. Thatcher to institutionalized deterrence; or, basically, what we understood the Iranian leader to be saying was that if the multinational forces are digging in, that is to say, if there is going to be a new security structure on the ground then fighting American interests and other interests in the area as represented by those troops—bearing in mind that there are too many Muslims on the soil of the holy places of Islam Mecca and al-Madinah—would be effectively the beginning of a holy war and anyone who dies in that effort would be a martyr. Yes, it does complicate the situation, and I don't want to say we told you so, but effectively I think that, God forbid, if the first shot is fired, this kind of militancy is going to run the length and breadth of the Muslim world.

[Reporter] Crown Prince, you said God forbid. Is it in fact likely that any shots will be fired? The Americans seem to be digging in for a long stay. The Saudis seem to be very glad to have their presence there. I don't know for how long they will continue to welcome them. Is the Gulf headed for war in fact, or for a long-term Western presence?

[Hasan] The latter seems rather ominously to be the case. The possibility of a long-term deadlock in terms of bringing down the price of oil, in terms of the killing that OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] countries will be making with a change of \$10 on the barrel, particularly if they pump the shares of Iraq and Kuwait, the OECD would be making something in the neighborhood of \$88 billion a year. So we were very worried about the long-term deadlock scenario from the very beginning—a southern Gulf and a northern Gulf of Iran and Iraq and a new cold war, if you will. However, the ships are still moving in those seas, the sanctions are being applied, the possibility of friction, even of a plane crashing on one side or the other side of those lines, could lead to a confrontation and that is what I think needs to be avoided. And, we don't want a no war, no peace situation. We want a negotiated settlement.

[Reporter] Crown Prince Hasan, you emphasize the risks of a Western presence. You've said nothing so far about Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, its takeover, its continuing

presence there, and some people say its continuing suppression of the Kuwaitis there.

[Hasan] Our position is that we have rejected annexation clearly and forthrightly, because the principle of annexation was unacceptable whether in Afghanistan or in the Falklands. We oppose the occupation of territory by war and called for self-determination. And, of course with the annexation of Jerusalem after 23 years of occupation of Palestinian soil—clearly this country and its people and indeed the Palestinian people feel the deep injustice in terms of our credentials being questioned in terms of international legitimacy. We are on the side of international legitimacy, we are cynical and bitter because we haven't seen it work in this region yet, and clearly we see that if annexation can be rolled back in Kuwait, there is an opportunity for talking about rolling back other more intractable problems in the region. Our position, as I said, has been reiterated so many times that sometimes it is a little bit tiresome for us after five weeks to repeat it, but clearly if the troops of Iraq are to be expected to withdraw, there have to be guarantees that this sort of thing does not happen again and those guarantees are not in security structures but in a negotiated settlement in the concept of a security zone in the region, which could be possibly a conflict-free zone rather than a conflict-prone zone including all the weapons of mass destruction and what have you that all sides have.

[Reporter] You use the word cynicism and I know that elsewhere you have promoted the idea of a local solution—an Arab solution to this conflict. How do you see rolling back Saddam Husayn out of Kuwait your way?

[Hasan] Our way is very much embedded in Resolution 660 of the United Nations Security Council in Article Four, which states clearly that withdrawals are expected from Kuwait and, of course, the United Nations calls for an unconditional withdrawal and the restoration of political structures, and as far as we are concerned all that we say is that when you look at Article Four you ask where does that political role fit into international legitimacy if so many strident voices, particularly in the West, are saying unconditional withdrawal and stopping there. Does that mean that one leaves a void? Does it mean that one exercises sign language to restore relations between the Kuwaitis and the Iraqis, or does it mean that at some stage a concept has to evolve of a political settlement as stipulated in the UN resolution? You see, there's no contradiction, Barbara, between the UN resolution and the Arab role. It is not a question of an Arab role apart from UN legitimacy. It is a part of that UN legitimacy. But, of course, first things first, and we hope we can get to that stage effectively where this crisis can be contained and the Arab component is recognized even in the intermediate; not foreign security structures, a new CENTO [Central Treaty Organization], but the Arabs to be responsible for the security and stability of what is basically an Arab and Muslim region.

[Reporter] I hope you will allow me to use a Western colloquialism here. We have an expression of being

between a rock and a hard place. Your brother has been on the throne of Jordan for 37 years by balancing off all his problems. He's kept a strong alliance with the West and with Washington. He's also kept a strong position in the Arab world. Is this the crunch that kills, is it the balancing act that can't be managed this time?

[Hasan] I think it's not a question of balancing act, because [word indistinct] of compromise what we are not talking about is compromising principle. Of course as you also say in your Western colloquialism, particularly in North America, a statesman is a dead politician. Now as far as we are concerned, many members of this family over decades have laid down their lives for principle, and not least of all in recent decades. All of this we are prepared to forget. But I'd just like to say here that this country has been criticized bitterly by militants in this part of the world for calling for a negotiated settlement of the Palestine question. Here, when we call for a negotiated settlement of the Iraq-Kuwait crisis, we are criticized by our Western friends for not siding up with a military alliance. So, where does one win in this situation? I think one wins, effectively, not by, as you suggested, sitting on the fence, but by calling for peace and asking for peace to be given a chance, which I believe is what Mr. Gorbachev and others were trying to say quite clearly and even President Bush could not get away from clearly in his public statements in Helsinki and in other similar fora.

[Reporter] Crown Prince, what I really had in mind was this: As you know, the Americans have been extremely generous with your country, so were the Saudis, so were the Kuwaitis. They are very bitter about the position you have taken, as you know. They are very bitter about the position that the Palestinians have taken under Yasir 'Arafat. Could they squeeze you later, could they punish you later because you also can't antagonize your neighbor and ally Saddam Husayn?

[Hasan] Well, as far as the Saudis and the Gulf Arabs, they are our brethren and we have never been ungrateful of their assistance, as it happens in terms of the sanctions which have been called for at the present time. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq are our three major trading partners. If you the OECD countries effectively have had one percent of their GNP chopped off by the crisis, we have had 50 percent of our GNP chopped off by the crisis. Our GDP is barely over 3 billion, and 2 billion of that would go with the application of total sanctions which are being studied now and certainly adhered to in conjunction with or discussion with the sanctions committee of the Security Council. So that squeezing is already taking place. But at the end of the day we believe when the United States says they have their strategy in place, that their strategy cannot, a superpower strategy, cannot be solely a war-oriented strategy. If it is war, then effectively we are all going to be squeezed. We do not have weapons of mass destruction, we do not have chemical weapons, and we are caught in the middle—whether it is war, or whether it is peace. And I think in that situation you have to stand up to your principles, and

say: Look, this region has to have the respect it deserves, cannot be regarded as a series of special interests. What we see today is the bankrolling of a war machine. Would it not be better to see effectively our friends who have the money to make so many in the developing world happy suggesting effectively investments funds, suggesting loan-thinking arrangements, suggesting that debt can be canceled rather than seeing this appalling line of recipients of assistance, for military aid, for a situation, which either war—whether it is a long-term military presence or a conflict in the next few weeks, or days, or months—means devastation effectively of the Middle East region and the return to a bitter colonial past.

[Reporter] Crown Prince, in every answer you've given it is obvious that you take the Western military presence very seriously and are frightened by it. I would like to know what you and your brother are saying to Saddam Husayn. Are you telling him to get out of Kuwait, to release all the people he is detaining, and to take any dispute he's got with Kuwait to the United Nations? Are you telling him that?

[Hasan] We've made it very clear in that....[changes thought] Our position is, as I said, a part of international legitimacy. We are opposed to the policy on foreign nationals, but also we are opposed to the policy on hundreds of thousands of Asian nationals, who, many, unfortunately, have not paid enough attention to when they were streaming into this country. We've had the equivalent of 15 percent of our population in terms of evacuees pouring into Jordan. So, I do not think anyone can fault our position as far as foreign nationals are concerned of whatever origin they may be. We are telling him: Yes, there has to be a political solution, but telling in the sense of consulting with a leadership that obviously feels very isolated in terms of the very few options left open in that situation. As former Secretary Brzezinski said effectively, the options offered by the United States and the Western alliance today are either to hit Iraq—and to hit it hard—or to strangle Iraq. And he would have preferred, effectively, a third option which he described as porous. By that I understand, effectively, that capitulation or strangulation are not going to work. And this is what we've been saying. You can't say to the people of Iraq we are with you and we are opposed to your leadership, while doing everything possible to prevent medicine and foodstuffs from arriving to Iraqi nationals and Iraqi men, women, and children. There is a very bitter situation building up in this part of the world. And the sooner this is understood and politics are exercised where people matter, the better.

[Reporter] If I could ask you about Saddam Husayn's latest offer, which is free oil to the Third World—an offer that I believe your government has welcomed today. Are you going to accept that free oil, and what are the strings attached? You are already getting it at half price, I believe.

[Hasan] As far as our government is concerned, the oil that we are getting from Iraq is repayment of debts to

Jordan. If that oil stops now, our light industry stops, our drinking water stops, our economic problems aggravate. We already have 20 percent unemployment and we have obviously a very difficult situation to cope with. People here have said: If our back is going to be put to the wall, if we are going to be made to feel that we are being punished—and it is not Jordan that invaded, I would like to remind you—then, effectively, it is very difficult for us to justify continuing calling for not a political settlement, but for exercising moderate policies at all. And I hope that the world will understand effectively that in our discussions with the Security Council that the Security Council membership has commended Jordan for the measures that it has taken. As far as free oil to the world and the Third World, I would like to remind you that it was the same Iraq that participated in the economic summit conference in 1980 when we spoke of a \$5 billion economic development decade for the Arab world. Eight years later, a trillion dollars have been spent largely by countries in the conflict zone, but also beneficiaries all over the world, particularly of military industry, and a million people have been killed and maimed. That is why we are cynical. And this is why initiatives aimed at development such as free oil for Third World countries are welcomed. And I am saying, why can't the OECD countries take similar initiatives in terms of a better recognition of the needs of the living conditions of many, many tens of destitute people all over the world, rather than the billions that they are spending on their military machine.

[Reporter] As you know, the people who would like to get Saddam Husayn out of Iraq are counting on an economic embargo. Between you and Iran, if the two of you decided to help him move his goods, he could break the embargo. Is that going to happen?

[Hasan] As far as we are concerned, as I said, we are adhering to those sanctions with the exception to the points you referred to, to the oil, and the second point is very clear, that anyway with 20 and 30 percent insurance on ships coming into our port of al-Aqabah, we are already being sanctioned, Barbara. It is not the question of Iraq being sanctioned. Our economy is in jeopardy, as I said.

[Reporter] What about Iran? What game are they playing?

[Hasan] I can't speak for Iran. But clearly now there is peacemaking developing between the two of them, visits and exchanges taking place between the two of them, the possibility of their economic relations improving is clearly indicated, but that is a problem to be considered by the Security Council.

[Reporter] If I can ask you finally about this thing that people want to call the Arab solution, do you harbor no fear of Saddam Husayn? Is he not a threat potentially to you? You know how your Gulf neighbors feel about him.

They are scared to death of him. You know that Syria and Egypt are opposing him. You are not. Is he no threat to the region?

[Hasan] Barbara, we have been scared to death of crises every decade for as long as I have been alive, whether it is President Nasir of Egypt, or whether it was Ayatollah Khomeyni in Iran, whether it is the crisis in the Gulf of Sirte in Libya, and now the crisis with Iraq. It is our feeling that this region where we have not chosen our neighbors, and there I would include our Israeli neighbors and refer to the Arab-Israeli wars, is not a region effectively for the faint-hearted, and what we have in this country is democracy. Our people are firmly behind the condemnation of the internationalizing of this crisis, and the Arab solution, effectively, as we have said is not in contradiction to the international solution. It is a part of that international legitimacy which we have yearned for for 23 years of the occupation of Jerusalem and Palestine. Now, the world is up on its feet aware of the Middle East again, aware of Kuwait, aware of Iraq because of foreign nationals, because of oil, because of issues that affect them directly. The man in the street here says: But what about us? So in that situation, effectively, our Western friends encourage us to have democracy, and then criticize us and don't like our opinions, and try to punish us when we do. I think that there are double standards in this that have to be understood and contained, and I think that there are a lot of wounds that have to be mended on both sides of the fence.

[Reporter] And that local population of Jordan that we have seen night after night on our newscasts that you say are so opposed to what you call the internationalization, meaning, I assume, the Western presence in the Gulf, is it worth the life of your government to oppose and back your own population? Are they in fact deciding Jordan's policy at the moment?

[Hasan] The people do not inform foreign policy, and as I said to you for 23 years we have called for a negotiated settlement in the case of Palestine and the Palestinian territories, and we were bitterly criticized and opposed by many governments that today are supporting the American presence in the Gulf. I don't need to name them, even Arab governments. But it seems to us that the situation is developing in this part of the world where you have the old colonial adage: Divide and rule, or divide and Kuwait. So it is Arab against Arab and this makes us even sadder. As I said to you, the founder of this kingdom gave his life as a martyr on the steps of one of the holy shrines of Islam, the mosque in Jerusalem. My family has lost life in Baghdad in 1958, and life is not important at the end of the day. What is important, effectively, is the happiness and prosperity of future generations.

[Reporter] It is extremely good of you to be with us and we would like to thank you very much.

[Hasan] Thank you very much, Barbara.

[Reporter] Thank you.

Bush Addresses Iraqis; Spokesman Reacts to Speech*JN1609161890 Amman Domestic Service in English
1605 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] Baghdad television this afternoon screened a taped message to the Iraqi people from U.S. President George Bush. The message was broadcast in English with simultaneous translation into Arabic. As the tape was aired, thousands of Iraqis took to the streets of Baghdad and other cities in support of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Bush said Iraq had made a mistake in crossing into Kuwait. He also pointed to Iraq's huge losses as a result of the United Nations' embargo against Baghdad, which he said was costing it \$20 million a day. Bush claimed Iraq's fight was not just with the United States, but with the whole world.

In a commentary immediately following the U.S. President's statement, an Iraqi spokesman said Bush wanted to dominate the whole world. He said Bush believes the whole world is ready for a new world order—an order in which the United States is the sole leader.

Press Treatment of Bush Iraqi TV Message*JN1709082490*

[Editorial report] The three Amman Arabic dailies AL-RA'Y, AL-DUSTUR, and SAWT AL-SHA'B, and the English-language JORDAN TIMES on 17 September do not comment editorially on President George Bush's message to the Iraqi people. However, all four papers carry frontpage reports on the message. AL-RA'Y carries on pages 1 and 18 an approximately 2,000-word "combined news agency report" on Bush's message and Iraqi reaction to it. This report is carried under the following banner headlines: "Massive Anti-U.S. Demonstrations in Iraq After the Broadcast of the U.S. President's Message; Bush Demands Withdrawal from Kuwait and the Release of Foreigners; Baghdad: The U.S. President Has No Right to Talk on Behalf of the World." The report also includes the "text" of President Bush's message. The only comment on Bush's message contained in AL-RA'Y on 17 September is an approximately 700-word article on page 20 by Jordanian writer 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar in the "I Say a Word" column under the headline "What International Community?". 'Umar notes the "fallacies" contained in the message and refutes Bush's claims that he was talking on behalf of the international community and that 80 percent of the Arab population live in the states that support him.

AL-DUSTUR carries on pages 1 and 12 an approximately 1,400-word "combined news agency report" on Bush's message. The report contains portions from the message, in addition to Iraqi reaction to it. This report is carried under the banner headlines: "The People of Iraq Respond to the U.S. President's Message Through Massive Demonstrations; Bush: Saddam's Battle is Not With Us, But With the International Community; Baghdad: Washington Wants to Americanize the World and Seeks Aggression." The paper carries on page 13 a 200-word

report on a statement by George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, also carried by the JORDAN TIMES, in which Habash says Bush's speech "will not convince anybody." He says: "If Mr. Bush is sincere, then let us sit down at a table and discuss the implementation of all United Nations resolutions on the Palestinian problem, on South Lebanon, and on the Gulf crisis."

SAWT AL-SHA'B, Second Edition, on pages 1 and 10 carries an approximately 2,400-word report on President Saddam Husayn's comment on recent remarks by the French president, Bush's message, and the Iraqi reaction to it. The report, which includes the "text" of Bush's message, is carried under the banner headlines: "Baghdad Television Broadcasts Bush's Message; Saddam: France Escalating Its Aggressive Attitude Toward Iraq." The paper carries no comments on the message.

The English-language JORDAN TIMES carries on pages 1 and 6 a 600-word "combined news agency" report containing portions from Bush's message to the Iraqi people and the Iraqi reaction to it. The report is carried under the banner headline: "Iraq Broadcasts Bush's Message, Then Refutes It."

Columnist Refutes 'Fallacies' of Bush Message*JN1709103490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
17 Sep 90 p 20*

["I Say a Word" column by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar: "What International Community?"]

[Text] There are many points which merit attention in the U.S. president's televised speech addressed to the Iraqi Arab people over Baghdad television, not because what the U.S. president said in it is new for us, but because it is full of fallacies which should be exposed and highlighted. At the beginning of his speech, the U.S. president said he was talking "on behalf of the international community." It seems that the U.S. president is trying to tell us frankly that—after the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and after the United States became the imperialist power capable of manipulating many states in this world—he can talk on behalf of the world, and even on behalf of 12 member states of the Arab League, which suffered a fatal rift thanks to Mr. Bush. He also claimed to be talking on behalf of the Islamic states, which took part in the blockade against Iraq and sent troops to take part alongside the United States in confronting Iraq. This is what he is trying to say although we did not hear about an international conference that gave full mandate to the U.S. president.

The U.S. president goes on to say that 80 percent of the population of the Arab world live in the Arab states that support him. Does Mr. Bush really believe what he is saying? Does he want us to disbelieve what we see? Does he want us to believe his remarks the same way he wants us to believe his arrogant remarks about his ability to talk (through U.S. bullying) on behalf of the world? Let President Bush say whatever he wishes. But we in the

[Jordanian Arab National Democratic] Alliance have received messages, telephone calls, and cables of support from the real representatives of the organizations which represent the 80 percent and who were prevented by the states allied with President Bush from traveling abroad to take part in the Arab Popular Forces Conference currently held in Amman. Yes, we have documents which prove that. Will we deny what we see and believe Mr. Bush? Where is the defense of the human rights to travel and of expression?

Mr. President: You may find people who would believe your words, but not in this part of the world. The United States accepted UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and previous and later resolutions, but it hampered them through cooperation with racist Zionism. The U.S. veto which covered hundreds of Zionist aggressions is despised by any Arab or non-Arab, Muslim or non-Muslim who adheres to truth in this region. Our Palestinian Arab people continue to face death daily under your sight and hearing. However, you, master of the White House, continue to award racist Zionism for its daily crimes and for its occupation of our Palestinian Arab land through the largest portion of foreign aid to its satellites in the world. Once again Mr. Bush: Do you want us to deceive ourselves and believe what you are saying?

What do you have to do with Iraq and Kuwait? Get out of our countries, we are able to settle our affairs. Have you become an Arab nationalist overnight? Leave our land, you imperialists, and stop your plotting and despoiling of our Arab wealth. Whenever a Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir or a Saddam Husayn appears among us your mouths pour with abuses. However, we are too proud to respond to them.

You threaten Iraq that you will destroy its oil! Is this the responsibility shouldered by the United States toward Iraq, nay, toward the entire world? If the matter is so, we are more rightful to destroy it. However, it will not be the only oil to be destroyed. If you admire your force and hint at war, our old poet said: If a war is inevitable, it is shameful to die as a coward.

15,164 Evacuees Depart Amman; Breakdown Given

JN1609182690 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Excerpt] During the past 48 hours 15,164 evacuees have left Queen Alia International Airport aboard 56 aircraft belonging to various airlines with the assistance of Royal Jordanian airlines. Thus, 122,550 evacuees have so far left aboard 549 planes: 12,906 Yemenis; 3,254 Indians; 9,708 Pakistanis; 8,246 Filipinos; 9,547 Bangladeshis; 7,037 Egyptians; 4,142 Americans; and the rest of various nationalities, including French, Polish, Chinese, Sri Lankan, Russian, and others. [passage omitted]

Last Refugee Camps on Border To Close

NC1509175490 Paris AFP in English 1527 GMT
15 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, Sept 15 (AFP)—International aid groups prepared Saturday to shut the two remaining transit camps on the Jordan-Iraq border as thousands more refugees fleeing Iraq and Kuwait crossed the desert frontier.

Officials said the number of refugees awaiting repatriation from Jordanian transit camps had fallen to just over 35,000, from 41,000 Friday and almost 120,000 a week ago, as governments and aid groups pursued a massive airlift.

But they said thousands continued to cross the border. Late Friday and early Saturday, almost 20,000 had arrived at the al-Ruwayshid crossing, while more than 18,000 refugees left Jordan on evacuation flights.

International aid groups meanwhile prepared to close the two remaining transit camps on the border, where conditions had become precarious due to torrid heat, water and food shortages and tension between national groups.

Sha'lan I, the largest of the three desert camps on the border where 43,000 mostly Asian refugees had been crammed in often unbearable conditions, was razed to the ground Friday by bulldozers, informed sources said.

The two other camps, Sha'lan II, set up by the French aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres, and Mercy, established by U.S. and Irish charities, were to be shut later Saturday, the sources said.

A total of 3,511 Asians—Indians, Pakistanis, Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis and Filipinos—were at Sha'lan II early Saturday awaiting transfer, while 2,865 Bangladeshis were left at Mercy camp, according to official figures.

The refugees at the border are being moved to two camps opened Wednesday at al-Azraq, 90 kilometers (55 miles) east of Amman. Some 14,000 Asians have so far been transferred to the al-Azraq camps, which are able to house 50,000 refugees.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has transferred 8,523 Indians to al-Azraq I, while the Jordanian Red Cross moved 5,500 Thais, Filipinos, Sri Lankans and Bangladeshis to al-Azraq II, the informed sources said.

International relief aid provided to Jordan since August 5 to cope with the massive influx has surpassed 155 million dollars, according to an Agence France-Presse estimate.

But several aid groups, including United Nations bodies and the private International Organisation for Migration, have called for more funds to accelerate repatriation and prepare for a new influx of refugees.

According to various sources, between 300,000 and 400,000 Asians are waiting to leave Iraq and Kuwait.

Netherlands Planes Arrive With Relief Supplies

JN1609172390 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1414 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 16 Sep (PETRA)—Two Netherlands cargo planes carrying assistance for arrivals in Jordan from Iraq arrived in Amman today.

According to Jordan's Red Crescent Society sources, the cargo of foodstuffs has been contributed by the EC.

A Dutch Red Cross team had earlier escorted such shipments to supervise relief work carried out by Jordan's Red Crescent in cooperation with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Trucks Denied Entry Into Saudi Arabia, Turkey

JN1509114490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
15 Sep 90 p 26

[Text] The transport sector is still being subjected to various obstacles preventing it from transporting goods from Jordan or through its territory to the Gulf countries through Saudi territory, or even to Europe via Turkey.

Mr. Haykal al-Miflih, director general of the Owners of Refrigerator Trucks Federation Company, told AL-RA'Y that large numbers of Jordanian refrigerator trucks, which are loaded with Jordanian, Egyptian, or Turkish goods and on which there are contracts by merchants from the Arabian Gulf and Saudi Arabia, are now at the borders at al-Ramtha and al-Aqabah and that the drivers are waiting for entry permits to Saudi territory.

Mr. al-Miflih pointed out that a few days ago the Saudi Embassy stopped issuing entry permits for entering its territory to drivers of refrigerator trucks and that this will cause huge financial losses.

He added that the Turkish authorities have also prevented Jordanian refrigerator trucks from entering its territory to load cargo for Gulf countries.

It should be noted that Jordan owns various goods, including sesame, which have been put aside at Gulf ports—including some that are liable to spoil—because of not allowing Jordanian refrigerator trucks to enter these countries to transport them to Jordan.

Omani Envoy Denies Jordanian, Palestinian Ouster

JN1309150890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1410 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 13 Sep (PETRA)—Omani Ambassador to Jordan Muhammad ibn Sultan al-Busa'idi has stated that the Sultanate of Oman has neither deported nor expelled any Arab citizen from its territory since the beginning of the Gulf crisis. He added that Oman recently signed contracts with Jordanian teachers who arrived in the Sultanate and have begun working there.

In a statement to PETRA in response to press reports that Oman had expelled 3,600 Palestinians from its

territory, the Omani ambassador said that all Jordanian or Palestinian citizens who work in the public or private sector are still at their jobs. He pointed out that in any case, the number of Jordanians and Palestinians who are in the Sultanate including the teachers does even not reach that number.

Nation Willing To Accept More Asian Refugees

JN1509092790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
15 Sep 90 p 3

[Text] Amman—Jordan will not prevent another large influx of Asian evacuees from entering its borders, even if it's ability to cope with their needs will be "overstretched," Salamah Hammad, secretary-general of the Ministry of Interior, said Thursday.

The needs of the evacuees, government officials say, have been of a major concern to Jordan since the influx began six weeks ago. The opening, Wednesday, of a new and geographically better located makeshift camp in Azraq is intended to centralise the bulk of the evacuees for administrative reasons.

But a lack of resources and an ever increasing influx of evacuees has drained much of Jordan's resources. "Our resources have already been strained and parts of our national reserves have already been touched to enable us to deal with the evacuee crisis, but whatever happens we cannot stop people from entering the country," Hammad, who is in charge of coordinating the welfare organisations' activities, told reporters.

According to the figures Hammad made available to the press, there are 40,000 Asian evacuees in Jordan. A total of 589,000 evacuees have entered Jordan since the Gulf crisis began August 2, and another 360,000 Asians are still in Iraq and Kuwait and could come to Jordan any time.

The Indian government has informed Jordan that as of Sept. 14, 2,000 Indian nationals would be arriving to Jordan daily from Iraq and Kuwait.

The number of Asians, Arabs and other foreigners estimated to still be in Kuwait and Iraq is two million. Some are believed to be waiting [in] the makeshift camps, similar to those in Jordan, for planes or ships to take them to their home countries.

Hammad said that Jordan could technically not stop any evacuee from entering Jordanian territory for humanitarian reasons. "We cannot limit peoples' movement nor can Iraq forbid them to leave."

Although Jordan greatly appreciates relief efforts provided by governmental and non-governmental agencies, the need for aid and assistance in ensuring the evacuees' health and their return to their countries is still great, Hammad said.

Asked about what would happen to the evacuees, almost all of whom will be transferred to the two new camps in

Azraq "until transportation is provided," once the rainy season begins, Hammad said that the need for help would increase.

"We are in need of assistance for the evacuees; at the same time we see no way we can prevent an increasing numbering from entering the country."

Hammad said he hoped other countries in the region, such as Iran and Turkey, would open their borders to the flood of evacuees.

Students Demonstrate Against U.S., USSR

*JN1509133190 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Sep 90*

[Text] In Amman, the students of the University of Jordan staged a demonstration in support of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn following Friday prayers at the university's mosque at noon today. The demonstrators attacked the U.S. and Soviet presidents, criticized the results of the Helsinki summit conference, accused the Soviet president of becoming a Western puppet, and denounced British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. They also called for an immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Gulf region.

Amal Leader Views U.S. Gulf Presence, Hostages
NC1609212490 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] In a statement today, Husayn al-Musawi Abu-Hisham, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, noted the struggle of the Lebanese Muslim mujahidin who deterred the American forces and ousted the multinational forces from Lebanon. He said the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf created a crisis in the region, and he warned of the consequences of delaying the departure of U.S. forces from the sacred Islamic lands.

He referred to the liberation of the Muslim mujahidin who had suffered in Kuwaiti prisons, saying no party had intervened to free these mujahidin.

Commenting on the recent British stands on the ruling of the late Imam Khomeyni, may his secret be sanctified, Abu-Hisham said these stands call for optimism about the release of the British hostages. He added that he does not expect any of the American hostages in Lebanon to be released soon.

Fadlallah Discusses Islamic League Resolutions
NC1509070690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has commended the call by His Eminence Ayatollah Sayyid 'Ali Khamene'i to confront the American presence which poses a threat to the region and the oppressed. Ayatollah Fadlallah criticized rulings by certain Muslim scholars which legalize the help of foreign forces. He said: These rulings are like those of the sultans' advisers who give made-to-order rulings to please the sultan. His eminence believes that the entire region has entered a serious phase. He asked: If we have failed, over 40 years, to force Israel to withdraw from the positions it occupies, how can we force America to withdraw from the region?

In another development, His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah secretary general, commented on the resolutions adopted by the Islamic League conference held in Mecca. He said: To the traitors we say that their conferences will not do them any good. They violate Islamic shari'a by issuing rulings which allow them to humiliate Islam, open the holy lands to atheists, and make Muslim wealth an easy target for the imperialists. This will generate the Almighty's wrath and that of

Muslims against those who armed Saddam and enabled him to fight Muslims in Iran and Kuwait, and against those who had used the enemies of Islam and the Kaaba to defend the Muslim lands and Mecca.

Al-Tufayli added: We are certain that Al Sa'ud will get their just punishment at the hands of the faithful followers of Muhammad, may God's prayers be on him and his family.

Arab Envoy Ibrahimi Arrives in Beirut 16 Sep

NC1609112590 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi arrived in Beirut this afternoon. He immediately briefed the president on the outcome of his efforts to secure assistance for Lebanon by putting it on the list of countries adversely affected by the Gulf crisis. Ibrahimi, who telephoned Prime Minister al-Huss last night, toured the Vatican, Rome, Paris, and London before returning to Jeddah, from where he departed to Beirut.

Meets With al-Hirawi

NC1609172290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] After meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi at noon today, Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi said: Our visit was only to extend greetings and to learn from his excellency about present conditions in Lebanon. In turn, we briefed his excellency the president on the results of our contacts on the Arab and international levels. In addition to general issues, two specific matters were discussed. The first is that the meeting for the establishment of the fund for Lebanon has been postponed; we have informed the various parties who were expected to participate. All these parties understand that the present circumstances dictated the meeting's postponement. We also notified everybody that the higher Arab committee has decided to resume efforts to establish the fund as soon as possible. For this reason, the committee has distributed the fund's statutes to the participants in this project.

The second matter is the request for urgent aid to Lebanon from Arab and foreign states to help Lebanon offset the losses sustained by the Lebanese residing in the Gulf and by Lebanese trade with the Gulf. We also notified his excellency the president that all the parties have shown an encouraging response.

Baker, Al-Shar' Comment on Damascus Talks

JN1409181690 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] In a predeparture statement to journalists in Damascus, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said: During our meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, we held lengthy talks on the Gulf crisis and on ways to implement the UN resolutions on the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government. Discussions also dealt with the Lebanese issue and the national charter. We also discussed the peace process prospects in the Middle East and agreed not to link this issue to the Gulf crisis.

On the release of U.S. hostages held in Lebanon, Baker said: We have discussed the importance the United States attaches to this issue. And I thanked President Hafiz al-Asad for his previous efforts to secure the release of some hostages.

On his part, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that Mr. Baker's talks with President Hafiz al-Asad were positive and constructive, during which bilateral relations were discussed. He said: We hope these relations will develop in the service of both countries' joint interest and in the service of peace and stability in the region.

On the Gulf crisis, Mr. al-Shar' said the urgent issue now is the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the lawful government. He added: Then, if we want actual stability in the region, we must work to secure a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added: We indicated that the Gulf crisis must not be linked with the Arab-Israeli conflict. He affirmed that the unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait will pave the way to a comprehensive, just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories.

In reply to a question on how long the U.S. troops will be staying in Saudi Arabia, Baker said: I have explained to President al-Asad what President Bush stated on various occasions—namely, that the United States neither seeks nor actually wants to maintain a permanent presence in the Gulf, despite the fact that since the year 1947 we have had a naval force in the Gulf. However, we neither intend nor desire to establish a permanent military

presence on the ground in this region. Our troops will leave the Gulf once the current crisis is resolved, the Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait is accomplished, and its legitimate government is restored.

On the prospects for development of Syrian-U.S. ties, Baker said: I would not be divulging a secret if I were to say that there are still some problems pertaining to the issue of terrorism. A way must be found to resolve these problems before strong ties are established.

Al-Shar' commented, saying: I believe that the Western media have played a major role exaggerating the issue of terrorism in our region. Syria has condemned and does condemn all forms of terrorism. Besides, it condemned the acts of plane hijacking and hostage taking. Furthermore, we view as terrorist acts any acts of violence outside the occupied Arab territories. However, we cannot at the same time view legitimate struggle against the occupation troops as terrorist acts.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Damascus this afternoon following a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. On hand to see him off at Damascus International Airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the chief of protocols, senior officials at the Foreign Ministry, as well as the U.S. ambassador in Damascus and U.S. Embassy staff.

Al-Asad Reportedly To Visit Tehran 15 Sep

JN1409203790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2010 GMT 14 Sep 90

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpt] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will leave for Tehran tomorrow.

A U.S. official on board U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plane confirmed this, adding that the United States expects him to use his influence with Iran to ensure that it continues to respect the international embargo imposed on Iraq.

James Baker left Damascus today at the end of a short visit during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad for four and half hours. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Iraqi Troops 'Ransacked' Diplomat's Kuwait Home

BK1609060890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0543 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 16 (AFP)—Iraqi troops have stormed and searched the residence of one of the six Bangladeshi diplomats in Kuwait, diplomatic sources here said Sunday. The troops entered the residence of Economic Counsellor K.M. Kaiser Friday and ransacked it in his presence, the sources said.

A Dhaka daily quoting unspecified sources said Iraqi soldiers had entered the residence of a Bangladeshi first secretary, but gave no details. The reported events followed Bangladesh's decision to temporarily suspend the operation of its embassy in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait, effective Wednesday, and to bring the diplomats and staff back home.

Ambassador K.M. Shehabuddin, five diplomats and three other staff in the embassy will be withdrawn "as it is no longer possible for them to carry out their legitimate functions," an official here said Tuesday. Meanwhile, most of the 61 non-essential staff and family members of diplomats in Kuwait, who were shifted to Jordan via Iraq earlier in the week, returned home Friday via Amman, informed sources said.

Mr. Shehabuddin, his wife and the five diplomats were still in Kuwait awaiting arrangements for their repatriation. Earlier reports said Iraqi troops stormed the residence of the French ambassador in Kuwait, abducting three people, including a diplomat. Bangladesh has announced it would send up to 5,000 troops to support the U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf.

Ambassador, Staff on Way Home

BK1709074890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0604 GMT
17 Sep 90

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 17 (AFP)—Bangladesh's envoy to Kuwait has left the Gulf emirate and is in Baghdad on his way home, an official said here Monday. He said Ambassador K.M. Shehabuddin, five diplomats and three other embassy staff left the Iraqi-occupied emirate Sunday, two days after Iraqi troops stormed and searched the residence of one of the diplomats.

Iraqi troops entered the residence of Economic Counsellor K.M. Kaiser on Friday and ransacked it in his presence, diplomatic sources here had said earlier. The diplomats left their posts after authorities here said Sunday that they were being withdrawn "as it is no longer possible for them to carry out their legitimate functions."

They added that the embassy's functioning was temporarily suspended and would resume when a "congenial atmosphere returned there." President Hussain Mohammad Ershad met the exiled emir of Kuwait,

Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Friday in Saudi Arabia and reaffirmed Bangladesh's solidarity with the people and Government of Kuwait under his leadership.

The Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait was being looked after by a "caretaker," the official added. On Friday, most of the 61 nonessential staff and dependents of diplomats in the tiny oil-rich emirate returned to Dhaka via Jordan. Bangladesh, which has sent a 5,000-strong military contingent to Saudi Arabia to help protect the kingdom from possible Iraqi attack, has backed all U.N. resolutions against Baghdad.

Freed Hostages Recount Iraqi 'Inhuman' Treatment

BK1509040890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0314 GMT
15 Sep 90

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 15 (AFP)—Several of the 445 Bangladeshi nationals who returned home Friday after languishing for six weeks in an Iraqi prison camp described their conditions as "inhuman," saying they were under acute mental and physical pressures. In separate interviews after reaching Dhaka from Jordan by a special Air France flight, they said the behavior of Iraqi soldiers changed for the worse towards them after Bangladesh announced it would send a military contingent to help defend Saudi Arabia from possible Iraqi attack.

Iraq detained 445 bangladeshi nationals working in different Kuwaiti defence installations after its August 2 invasion and held them captive in a military prison in Baghdad until their sudden release Tuesday. Baghdad gave no reason for their detention or release, but officials here said they were freed only after hectic diplomatic maneuverings.

Meanwhile, state-run Bangladesh Television reported Friday from Turkey, where President Hussain Mohammad Ershad wound up a two-day visit, that all Bangladesh refugees would be brought home within a month. About 20,000 of the some 100,000 Bangladeshis in the two countries at the time of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait have since returned, officials here said.

Lutfur Rahman, an Air Force technician, said, "I was separated from my family until the day I was released on September 11 and the Iraqis would not say anything, either on our release or the fate of my family." The captives were given paltry amounts of food which included half-cooked rice and sandwiches each day, Mr. Rahman said as he filled out his immigration papers at Dhaka's Zia International Airport. "Even that food was like sweets for us," he recalled.

Another former detainee, Mohammad Arif Mojumder, said he was picked up on August 2 as he started for his office and was whisked away in a truck to Baghdad. He said the prisoners suffered from an acute shortage of water and food and that 700 Bangladeshis, Pakistanis,

Indians and Sri Lankans were crammed into one large room. "There was no toilet and we used a small field for that purpose," he said.

A Foreign Office spokesman said here Friday that the 445 were finally back home, "much to the relief of the government and the nation and that the Bangladesh Embassy in Baghdad did a laudable job under adverse conditions." Ayub Mia, a mechanic, said he used his shoes to drink water out of since cups and glasses were not provided.

Many in the prison were suffering from skin diseases and stomach ailments but some treatment was available, Mr. Mojumder said, adding that flies infested the crammed prison. Saying they were told they were "state guests," Mr. Rahman quipped, "I did not know state guests were offered such hospitality."

Radio was restricted but the prisoners listened to news bulletins when the guards were away, the Bangladeshis said. "We heard on radio that our government was trying to secure our release and that consular services had been refused by Baghdad," one said. "It was our only hope that maybe one day we would be free."

The prison now only holds only Pakistani inmates, several said. The other detainees were either released or moved to other places. Wing Commander Zilani Mahabubur Rahman, an Air Force officer temporarily assigned to the Kuwaiti Air Force 14 days before the invasion, said most of the foreigners arrested by the Iraqis were those who went to work the day of the invasion. He spoke of acute food shortages in Kuwait, saying, "people stormed cooperative stores like beasts in search of something to eat, but mostly returned empty-handed as there was nothing left to take home."

Other refugees who returned Friday on Bangladeshi jetliners or other flights said Iraqi soldiers were rough and looted homes. "Iraqi soldiers forcibly took away my belongings and I had to bribe them with a radio set to cross the Kuwait-Iraq border," said labourer Zakir Hossain.

Another refugee, Mohammad Ramzan Ali, who fled the tiny oil-rich emirate on Monday with his two children and wife, said his baby girl was born on August 10. "Allah was kind that everything went smoothly." Hospital service was running at about 40 per cent capacity, he added. His wife said her babies suffered from lack of water as they undertook the grueling desert journey to Jordan via Iraq. Refugees also narrated how Iraqi drivers cheated them of money and often left them stranded in the middle of the desert instead of taking them to Jordan or Turkey.

Government Comments on Reported Deaths in Kuwait

BK1609001890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1711 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 15 (AFP)—A government spokesman said here Saturday he had no knowledge of a

report that some 1,500 Bangladeshis in Kuwait were dead or missing following the August 2 invasion by Iraq. "We have no information" to this effect, spokesman and Acting Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman said at a routine briefing.

But he did not deny the report which quoted Tajul Hasan, a naval architect and president of the Bangladesh Association in Kuwait, as saying he estimated that 1,500 Bangladeshis were dead or missing. In an interview, Mr. Hasan, who was among 400 stranded Bangladeshis who flew home Friday via Amman, said his estimate was based on the accounts of indiscriminate firing by Iraqi troops on foreigners, including Bangladeshis, and on reports of many deaths in Kuwait and refugee camps due to lack of food.

His association used to monitor the estimated 75,000 Bangladeshis, mostly workers, living in Kuwait at the time of the Iraqi invasion. According to Mr. Hasan the situation was "terrible" in Kuwait where at "every moment people, including Bangladeshis, were being killed (by Iraqi soldiers) or dying due to lack of food."

25,588 Bangladeshis Return From Gulf by 16 Sep

BK1609164090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Another 15,000 stranded Bangladeshi nationals will be repatriated from Jordan and Turkey by 50 new flights chartered by IOM [International Organization of Migration] and UNDRO [United Nations Disaster Relief Organization]. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Dhaka this afternoon that these flights by Soviet-built Ilyushin-86 aircraft of Aeroflot will begin tomorrow. Each of the flights will carry 300 passengers from Amman and [name indistinct]. He said an American military aircraft C-141 will also operate one flight between Amman and Dhaka on Friday next carrying around 160 Bangladeshi nationals.

The spokesman said 25,588 Bangladeshis were brought home in 85 flights from Middle East till this morning. Of them, 60 flights came from Jordan, 16 from Turkey, and 12 from Saudi Arabia.

Reportage on President Ershad Visit to Turkey

For Ankara reportage on the visit by Bangladeshi President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to Turkey and his talks with Turkish officials, including President Turgut Ozal, please see the Turkey section of the 13 September West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

India

Spokesman Says Ship With Food To Sail to Iraq To Supply Stranded Nationals

BK1409161990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] The Indian ship, M.V. Vishva Siddhi, will sail from Cochin on Sunday [16 September] for the Iraqi

port of Umm Qasr carrying food supplies for Indian nationals stranded in Kuwait and Iraq. This follows the UN Security Council's authorization of sending one Indian ship with food supplies to meet the immediate needs of the stranded Indian nationals. The ship will carry 10,000 tons of food articles and expected to reach its destination in a week's time.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi this evening that the UN Security Council has intimated to the Indian representative at the United Nations its decision to authorize one ship to sail for Iraq. It has also stated that the distribution of the foodstuffs should be carried out under the relevant section of the Security Council's resolution on sanctions against Iraq. The relevant section of the UN Security Council states that foodstuffs should be provided through the United Nations in cooperation with the International Committee of Red Cross or other appropriate humanitarian agencies. The spokesman also disclosed that 50 buses have been chartered to ferry about 2,000 Indian nationals from Kuwait to Amman everyday. He said all the Indian nationals from Kuwait registered at the Indian mission in Riyadh have been flown back home. So far, about 35,000 Indian nationals have been brought home.

Leaves for Iraqi Port 16 Sep

*BK1609081890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] The Indian cargo ship, M.V. Vishva Siddhi, left Cochin today for the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr. The ship is carrying food stock and other relief materials for the stranded Indians in Iraq and Kuwait. The union surface transport minister, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, flagged off the ship. The consignment, worth over 6 crore rupees, consists of nearly 9,300 tons of rice and over 400 tons of essential commodities like wheat, flour, pulses, milk powder, tea, sugar, and medicine. A team of Indian Red Cross doctors is also on board the vessel. The ship is expected to reach Umm Qasr by Friday or Saturday.

Meanwhile, the first convoy of 50 buses chartered by the Indian authorities to carry its nationals from Kuwait to Amman will leave Kuwait today with about 2,600 persons to be repatriated back home.

Further Ship To Repatriate Citizens

*BK1609102990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] The Indian cargo ship, N.V. Vishva Siddhi, left Cochin today for the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr with food stock and other relief materials for the stranded Indians in Iraq and Kuwait. The union surface transport minister, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, flagged off the ship. It carries a consignment worth over 6 crore rupees consisting of 9,280 tons of rice and over 400 tons of essential commodities like wheat flour, pulses, milk powder, tea, sugar, and medicines. The minister of state for external

affairs, Mr. Harikishore Singh, and the Kerala cooperation minister, Mr. T.K. Ramakrishnan, were also present. Our Cochin correspondent says that the ship is likely to reach Umm Qasr Port near Basra by Friday or Saturday. A team of Indian Red Cross doctors is also on board the ship.

Later, addressing a joint press conference in Cochin, Mr. Unnikrishnan and Mr. Harikishore Singh said the relief materials will be supplied to the stranded Indians through the Indian relief organizations and the Red Cross in Kuwait and Jordan. Docking the cargo ship in Kuwait port is also being explored.

They said that the passenger vessel, N.V. Tipu Sultan, is leaving for Dubayy today to carry the stranded Indians. The evacuation process is being speeded up by chartering more flights. Till today, over 40,000 Indian nationals have been evacuated at the rate of 3,000 to 4,000 persons every day, they added.

Meanwhile, the first convoy of 50 buses chartered by the Indian authorities to carry its nationals from Kuwait to Amman will leave Kuwait today with about 2,600 persons to be repatriated back home.

Direct Evacuation From Kuwait, Baghdad Planned

*BK1509131090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 15 Sep 90*

[Text] The center is considering the direct evacuation of Indians from Kuwait, al-Basrah and Baghdad. Disclosing this at a news conference in Madras today, the union surface transport minister, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, said that the government's efforts in this direction would continue till all stranded Indians desirous of coming to India are evacuated. He said at present 15 flights are being operated every day from Amman and already over 35,000 persons have been evacuated. Mr. Unnikrishnan said the Indian ship N.V. Vishva Siddhi will sail from Cochin to Umm Qasr in Iraq tomorrow carrying about 10,000 tons of foodgrain and other relief materials. He disclosed that the Jordanian authorities have provided space near Amman to set up special camps for Indians who are not able to withstand the extreme conditions of the desert.

Our Gulf correspondent Avinash Goel reports that Indian Embassy in Baghdad is working on a plan to evacuate people by air force planes direct from Baghdad to Delhi. The embassy is in touch with the Iraqi Government and hopes to get permission within the next two days when the planes will be put into operation. A convoy of 50 buses with about 2,000 Indians will start from Kuwait tomorrow morning and go direct to the Iraq-Jordan border without touching Baghdad on the way. From the border the evacuees will be taken to Amman in another set of buses.

Singh Speaks of Possible Communist Rule at Center

*BK1709090490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 17 Sep 90*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that the Janata Dal is prepared to sit in the opposition if the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] withdraws support to the National Front government at the center. However, he made it clear that the BJP's withdrawal of support need not result in mid-term elections. Mr. Singh was talking to newsmen aboard his aircraft on his way back from Madras to New Delhi yesterday. Replying to a question, the prime minister there could be a realignment of forces and the possibility of Congress-I rule with outside support. If the Congress-I supports Communists, the Janata Dal will like the Communists to head the government. He said that the alternative of the Congress-I-BJP coming together is also there.

Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said the decision on holding the assembly elections in Punjab will be taken by this week after consulting all the political parties.

Singh Expresses Concern for Tamils in Sri Lanka

*BK1709093990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 17 Sep 90*

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, will visit Sri Lanka soon to discuss the Tamil issue with the island government. Disclosing this at a mammoth public meeting organized by the ruling DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] in Madras last night, the prime minister said he will also take up the matter with President Premadasa during the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meeting in Male in November.

Expressing concern at over the sufferings caused to the civilian population in Sri Lanka, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, said India has been putting pressure on Colombo to stop civilian killings and to maintain supply of food and other essential items to Jaffna and other eastern areas. India has also assured Sri Lanka all help if refugee camps are set up in the island itself.

The prime minister said while India believes in the integrity of Sri Lanka, the democratic aspirations of the Tamils in the island should also not be eroded. The prime minister said 125,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees have already come over to Tamil Nadu. He assured that the center will reimburse all expenditure incurred by the Tamil Nadu government on these refugees and announced a further grant of three crore rupees on this account. He agreed to the Tamil Nadu chief minister's request to erect 10,000 more hutments for the refugees. The prime minister assured Mr. Karunanidhi that the center would take all possible steps to mitigate the sufferings of Tamils stranded in Gulf countries and to bring them home.

Mr. Singh said no language will be imposed on the people, but the government will support the growth of all languages as per the National Front election manifesto.

The prime minister reiterated that his government will be firm in implementing the Mandal Commission report [on reservation of jobs for backward classes]. He said it is not the number of jobs reserved for the backward classes that is important, but the share given to them in the power structure of the administration. Referring to the opposition to implementing the report, the prime minister said his government is keen on providing social justice to the oppressed classes rather than sticking to power.

The meeting was organized as a part of the celebrations of the five festivals [words indistinct], the center's decision to implement the Mandal Commission's recommendations being one of them. The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi; the Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai; the National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao; the union ministers, Mr. Ajit Singh, Mr. P. Upendra, and Mr. Murasoli Maran, also addressed the meeting. Earlier, a massive rally was taken out.

Iran

Tehran Notes President Bush Address to Iraqis

*LD1609170790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] Baghdad Television broadcast a message this evening from U.S. President George Bush addressed to the people of Iraq, simultaneous with anti-American demonstrations in the streets of the capital. According to a REUTER report, in his message—recorded on a video tape, addressing the people of Iraq—George Bush described the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait as a wrong and inhumane deed. The U.S. President said: Iraq is losing \$20 million per day as a result of its aggression against Kuwait and the punishment applied by the United Nations.

Immediately after broadcasting George Bush's message, an Iraqi television commentator said: Bush intends to become the world's dictator. The Iraqi presenter once again repeated the claim that historically Kuwait is part of Iraq.

Tehran International Reports

*NC1609195790 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] Iraqi television today aired U.S. President Bush's message to the Iraqi people. The Iraqi television commentator had previously affirmed that the repeated appearance of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on U.S. television has caused a radical change in U.S. public opinion, and, since then, the U.S. President had expressed the desire to address a message to the Iraqi people.

According to the Iraqi commentator, the appearance of the Iraqi president on U.S. television had contributed to disclosing the causes behind the U.S. intervention in the region. The Iraqi commentator condemned the right claimed by Bush to speak on behalf of the entire world.

He added that Bush may decide to launch a war against Iraq. But this war would be a catastrophe for the Americans. The commentator stressed that Iraq is not for war, but it will not hesitate to confront war.

KAYHAN Supports Khamene'i Declaration

*LD1509101890 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT
15 Sep 90*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' Saturday editorialized on the last week statement of leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i who termed campaign against U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf as a holy jihad. This, said the paper, clarified Iran's stand vis-a-vis the issue.

The leader's statement removed any doubt about Tehran's views on the U.S. show of force and its arrogant conduct in the region, said the daily.

The West believed that Tehran would ignore the U.S. adventurism in the Persian Gulf in order not to jeopardize its long-term policy of re-establishing ties with the West, it said.

Referring to Tehran's condemnation of Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the English daily said that Iran has shown its willingness to help restore peace and stability in the region by confronting the unwanted U.S. presence in the region, if necessary.

"If doing so entails a substantial degree of risk, the Islamic Republic is willing to go ahead and send a clear message to the international community that it is the United States that is a major destabilizing factor and source of tension in the Muslim region," it added.

The editorial welcomed progress in Tehran-Baghdad ties calling it a positive step. It stressed Iran's opposition against foreign military presence in the region and any policy calling for foreign intervention to guarantee peace, security and stability.

Iraqi Documents Said To Expose 'U.S. Plots'

*LD1609150590 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT
16 Sep 90*

[Text] Tehran, Sept 16, IRNA—The Persian daily KEYHAN said Sunday that the Iraqi regime has documents to expose to the world people the U.S. plots against the countries of the Middle East and especially Washington's role in pitting Iraq in a long war against Iran. The daily said the Baghdad regime is also fully aware of the schemes of the Saudis and of the combined efforts of the United States and Egypt for helping the Zionist regime against the Muslim people of Palestine.

It said once the Baghdad regime has published those documents it will have precluded the chances of a U.S. attack against Iraq and will have also created a qualm in the protege governments of the United States in the region.

KEYHAN said the publishing of the U.S. schemes against the countries of the region will threaten the colonialistic interests of the United States in the region and will "render inoperative the suppressive machinery of the (U.S.) imperialism which the U.S. has used against the wills and aspirations of the peoples of the region."

The daily said as much as the publishing of documents discovered in the former compounds of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran had exposed the U.S. plots against Iran so, too, will a similar action by the Iraqi regime serve to further expose the political schemes of the United States in the region. It said the publishing of those documents by Iraq will serve to "prepare the ground for the collapse of servile regimes in the region as well as help oust the obtrusive forces of the United States from the region."

Paper Warns of Intervention Against U.S.

*NC1509134190 Paris AFP in English 0848 GMT
15 Sep 90*

[Text] Tehran, Sept 15 (AFP)—Iran will intervene with its call for a holy war if Washington crosses the "red line" and tries to boost its grip over the Muslim world's resources, the influential TEHRAN TIMES daily warned Saturday. "If they want to strengthen their domination over the resources and reserves of the Muslims Iran, as the biggest and most important country of the Persian Gulf region, will seriously and practically oppose this," the newspaper said.

"If the United States wants to follow such a policy, then in Iran's view it will have passed the red line," it said. "This will be a big insult to the Islamic world and it is on this basis that the leader of the Islamic Revolution, obeying his Islamic duty, lashed out at the U.S. and considered struggle against the U.S. as Jihad, or holy war."

Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the country's spiritual guide, said Wednesday that popular Islamic resistance against the massive U.S. military presence in the Gulf amounted to holy war.

He was seen to have aligned himself with opponents of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's more moderate stand on the West, in the wake of Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent U.S.-led military build-up. TEHRAN TIMES, which is close to the Rafsanjani government, stressed that "until today Iran has shown itself totally committed to all the decisions of the U.N. Security Council" demanding an Iraqi withdrawal.

"But this doesn't mean that Western forces are permitted to come to the Persian Gulf on the excuse of preventing further Iraqi aggression," it said. "And after one month's stay without any effective steps to deter aggression, U.S. officials are now speaking of lengthening their stay in the strategic Persian Gulf region."

The English-language paper said U.S. domination of the region's oil resources was aimed at countering the rising

power of a united Europe. Kayhan International, a paper close to anti-Western hardliners, said Iran "remains as anti-American as it was in the years before the death of its founder Imam Khomeyni—the United States is still the Great Satan."

Paper Urges U.S. 'Expulsion' From Saudi Arabia

LD1609165490 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday called for the immediate expulsion of American forces from Saudi Arabia and noted that this could not become possible in the absence of an all-out mobilization by the world Muslims. 'JOMHURI'YE ESLAMI' in its editorial this morning further added that the Muslim community and ulema were shouldering a grave responsibility vis-a-vis the trampling upon the sacred land of Saudi Arabia by "dissolute" American soldiers.

"Moreover," wrote the article, "the Saudis have undertaken all the expenses for entertaining the American forces and have gone as far as offering them 10,000 Egyptian prostitutes." It referred to the last Wednesday call of the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamene'i urging the world Muslims to put an end to the present disgraceful and humiliating situation.

"Of course Iraq had made a big blunder which should be corrected by ending its occupation of Kuwait," said the daily, adding "but Iraq's mistake should not pave the way for [words indistinct] mistakes." The current American disrespect towards Saudi Arabia cannot be justified under any circumstances and, therefore, this deplorable situation should be ended as soon as possible, urged the daily.

Editorial Views Possible Food Aid to Iraq

NC1409142990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
6 Sep 90 p 2

[Editorial: "To Help Iraq With Food and Medicine Depends on NSC"]

[Text] The U.S. Congress Armed Forces Committee Chairman Les Aspin has said Iraq is trying to win Iran's cooperation to help Baghdad out of the U.N. and U.S. sponsored economic sanctions. This, according to Aspin is the reason for the sudden change in Iraq's policy to accept Iran's conditions for the settlement of war-related issues. A few days after its invasion of Kuwait early last month, Iraq announced its agreement to terms set by Iran for solving the issues of the eight year war the two countries fought from 1980 to 1988.

The American official has also charged that Iraq is seeking to export oil through Iranian pipelines and that once this is done Baghdad may export up to a third of its total exports via Iran.

Iran and Iraq have a border line of several hundred kilometers and in some points the pipelines of the two countries lie no more than a few kilometers from each

other. This border feature makes it possible for certain Western politicians to arrive at such conclusions.

Iran for that matter has every right to look at the current Persian Gulf crisis from its own national interest perspective. The reason lies in the treacherous approach of the West to Iran during the war. West stopped short at no plot to hit Iran in the back in the course of the war with Iraq.

Western officials themselves are now going public on what the West did as a whole to prevent an Iranian victory in the war. The former French foreign minister Claude Cheysson, for instance, a few days ago disclosed that the Security Council had decided in a hush-hush meeting that Iran had to be kept from winning the war.

Now, in the face of open and clandestine moves by the Western powers against the Islamic Republic, the latter naturally has the right to approach regional problems from its own points of interest.

These points of interest however are to be determined by the foreign policy planners of the nation, especially the Iran's National Security Council.

There is, however, a humanitarian question that has to be pondered upon in Iran these days. Should the Islamic Republic help the Iraqi Muslim people in these hard times when they are facing an economic blockade?

And since according to the U.N. resolutions food and medicine are not included in the sanctions so far imposed on Iraq, by choosing to help the Iraqi people Iran will not be breaching any international law.

In the light of the proximity of Iranian borders to Iraq, Iran is certainly able to solve almost all food and medicine problems the 15-million population of Iraq is presently facing. If need be Iran can charge Iraq a transit fee and allow that country to use Iranian ports for transportation of food and medicine.

Such decisions however are within the jurisdiction of the country's National Security Council to make.

Musavi-Ardibili Gives Prayer Sermon on Crisis

LD1409161490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1130 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Second Friday sermon delivered by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili at Tehran University on 14 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

We have an opportunity in this second sermon to consider the ongoing issues in this region. The ongoing issue is a deep and notable matter, especially for Islamic and revolutionary Iran, which has struggled so hard and attained this level of wisdom and preparedness and which cannot remain indifferent to regional issues. Saddam invaded Kuwait. Events developed. There were

various analyses. It could, however, be predicted that this was either with the cooperation of the United States or with its encouragement—or at the very least with its knowledge. Well, after 40 or 42 days, Saddam revealed his hand and said: Look, we had told them beforehand and here is the tape. They knew not two hours beforehand; they knew a week beforehand. We had told them that we would invade Kuwait.

That could have been predicted. The United States sacrificed Kuwait; a sacrifice aimed at creating a crisis in the world, riding the crisis, solving its own problems, and tying the hands of its rival, that is, a united Europe. And it played its game well. Now that some days have passed since Ashura [anniversary of Imam Husayn's martyrdom], the only one who has gained from all this is the United States. It has sold weapons, gotten money, sold oil, gained a military presence, taken over oil centers, moved its Army in on a large-scale, and it has not spent a penny. It is getting money from Japan by the billions. Whatever that (?poor) miserable al-Sabah had, it took by the dozens of billions; from al-Sa'ud too. And it is spending it there as if it was an inheritance from its father.

The one who has gained in this 40-odd days is the United States. The ones who have lost, until now, are industrial countries who have brought oil at double or triple [the previous price] and who are also going to give money now. And moving slowly, one step forward, one step backward, they have still not revealed their position clearly. Saddam is sitting on one of his ships, slippery, unreliable. One says, they will kill him. One says, they will weaken him. It comes down to one of two things: Either he must stay and be the servant of the United States, or he must die. It depends on what his dignity, if he has any, demands. Will he prefer death to servility or will he say, look, we did not realize it would be like this; how can this be? We sat down with you a week before and we told you; you heard it. Now you have gone back on that. We will do whatever you say now. That is what he has come to.

As for Iran amidst all this: So far, its actions have been very good. It has condemned Saddam's invasion of Kuwait; and it truly is condemnable. [crowd chants in support]

How can anyone rationalize force in this world? Should I attack Iran if I find myself in a position to do so? Should I attack Kuwait if I find myself in a position to do so? Should I obliterate it [Kuwait] from the geographical map of the world if I find myself in a position to do so? If this rationale is to replace the humanitarian rationale in the world, then everything will fall apart. His [Saddam's] action was very wrong and he should retreat. But how is he to do that? Everyone has said that he should retreat. What I want to add is this: Would his withdrawal mean the return of the al-Sabah family? Personally, I do not believe that. The al-Sabah family was also a usurper family; they were the lackeys of the United States.

This was made clear through their actions when they were at the helm, just as they are clear now. I cannot help

wondering what kind of world this is? Even though Kuwait is small and has a small population, it is nevertheless a country. They all seem to be concerned about what Saddam says, what the United States says, what the Saudis say, or what the West says. To this date, I have not heard anyone mentioning what the Kuwaitis say. After all, for all intents and purposes the region belongs to the Kuwaitis; the land belongs to the Kuwaitis; the wealth belongs to the Kuwaitis, and everything else. Who are they to say anything? They have pushed them [the al-Sabah family] aside as though they are children who have not yet come of age, saying to them: You should let us sort things out for you. How long does the world intend to carry on in this manner? Why do they not talk about what the Kuwaitis say?

Saddam should retreat, and then they should say to the Kuwaitis: This is your land, and this is your life. Hold elections, and say whatever you wish to say. If anyone other than the Kuwaitis must make a remark then that remark should at least come from one of its neighbors—from those in the region who have at least shared some good and bad experiences with them. It should at least be them. The United States came to the region. Twenty eight days have elapsed since that day. I offered Saddam a proposition, which was that he has one solution open to him—which he will unfortunately ignore. The solution is that he should say: I have made a mistake, I will retreat, and the people should take charge, or else the neighbors should take charge. This solution saves him from acting like a lackey. Otherwise, the chanting of such slogans—after what he has perpetrated in Iraq, in Iran, or in Kuwait—such as: You have desecrated the holy shrines; this cannot be accepted by anyone. These remarks do not suit Saddam's image. He is a loathsome man. If he retreats, then it does not matter.

And as for the United States: It does not make any difference to the United States. So far it has made its statements. One often hears such remarks as: Our presence here is not temporary; we are here to stay; we will be here for quite a while; we have come to establish security in the region; we have come here to save the world; and so on. Just as Saddam's remarks do not suit his image, these remarks do not suit America's image either, since it has already perpetrated such acts in Vietnam and all over the world. However, this time it is different—they may not believe this, but fate will prove it to them, if they do not change their mind. The United States is caught in a trap. Are the Muslims all dead? And I am not referring to the Iranians only, but to the Iranian, the non-Iranians, the Arabs, and the non-Arabs. They are all Muslims. They are mere spectators. The United States comes and takes over their region, divides their oil, wreaks all kinds of havoc and thumbs its nose at them. The Muslims just watch.

I am certain that if the situation is allowed to go on for some time, then the Muslims will overcome [object unspecified]. What does it mean? The American soldiers have come to Saudi [Arabia]. Then various kinds of drinks are brought to them from Jordan as gifts to

them—living close to the sanctuary of the Prophet and the House of God, they [U.S. soldiers] indulge in drinking. The Muslims will hear of these events. Will they then remain quiet? They [U.S. troops] are busy engaged in debauchery, as half-naked dancers are imported into Saudi [Arabia] for them so that their morale may not decline. Even then for the first time [Saudi King] Fahd allows the women and girls of Hijaz to enlist in the Army—an Army which is in the hands of these [morally] permissive Americans. If they continue these amoral acts, it will not be long before the Muslims will move in unison. [crowd chants: Death to America]

It is surprising that they [Americans] still continue to place their trust in governments—which are stooges—to support America in the region. Fahd cannot save his own skin; Husni Mubarak cannot save his own skin; Hassan II cannot save his own skin. And yet [you expect them] to safeguard America in the region? If they [Americans] go on to stay a little while longer, if the issue takes a serious position, then these governments can be overthrown by the hands of their own peoples. [chants by crowd: Death to America and Israel]

It is a religious duty, a certain religious duty for Muslims...[sentence unfinished] The Muslims must not tolerate things less [disgraceful] than that, let alone these acts.

Velayati Wants Crisis Solved by Gulf States

LD1509082990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, addressing a gathering of released POW's disabled, fighters, and other strata of the people of Esfahan, said:

The victories which we have witnessed in a short time are the signs of the implementation of divine promises. Very seldom in history has Islam been presented in such glory and scope. He described the victories which have been achieved to be the results of the patience, steadfastness, and self-sacrifice of our people and their willing obedience to the guidelines of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—God's blessings be with him—the founder of the Islamic Republic, and also the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and said: We know of many Islamic groups who traditionally supported the Saudi regime. However, as the result of what has happened in the region today, and that regime's invitation to the aliens to its country has caused these Islamic groups to become opposed to the Saudi regime. Among them one can refer to the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent, the Middle East, and North Africa.

Mr. Velayati added: the guidelines of the founder of the Islamic Republic, as well as of the esteemed leader of the revolution, has been that we move within a framework based on principles. In this context, reliance upon God, reliance upon ourselves, and nondependence upon the aliens have been stressed. This has so far made us successful and proud.

Referring to the fact that goodneighborliness is one of the main principles of the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that this has been proved to the world, Mr. Velayati said: As we believed in defense in the past, now also, if anyone or any small or big country wishes to engage in aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, we will confront it.

Referring to the Persian Gulf crisis, he stressed the need for a solution to these problems by the countries of the region, and said: We believe that Muslims should be united and should use all their capabilities against the enemies of Islam.

Security Council Meets on Iraq, Foreign Forces

LD1509170190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council met this evening under President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In that session, also attended by political advisors and high-ranking military commanders, in light of recent remarks delivered by the eminent leader, various means of forcing Iraq to end the occupation of Kuwait and ways of ending the presence of foreign forces in the region were debated. In that session, emphasis was placed on the adherence of the Islamic Republic to the UN Security Council's resolutions and the need for the immediate withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, so as to remove any pretext for the presence of foreign forces, and to meet the need of establishing stability in the Persian Gulf as an exclusive duty of the countries in the region.

Majles Deputies Call For Removing Foreign Forces

LD1609110290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] During today's Majles open session a letter signed by 168 deputies in support of the recent remarks by the esteemed leader [Khamene'i] was read. In the letter the deputies refer to the plots hatched by the United States and arrogance in the region and stress the need to stand up to plots hatched by the enemies of Islam.

Referring to the need for foreign forces to leave the region, the letter reads: The United States and its surrogates are seeking the resources of the Middle East, free of charge, for themselves and for the regime occupying Jerusalem. At the end of the letter the Majles deputies declare their adherence to the call of the great leader of the Islamic revolution and stress: We will whole heartedly follow the orders of his eminence.

Press Commentary Views Gulf Crisis

LD1509192190 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT
15 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—The Persian daily KAYHAN said in a commentary Saturday that the Soviets stand the best chance of benefitting from the

present situation at the Persian Gulf if the crisis is to be solved politically rather than militarily.

It said in light of the progress towards the political settlement of the conflict between Iran and Iraq and in view of the fact of Soviet's friendship with both Iran and Iraq Moscow would be in an advantageous position if the powers should decide to solve the situation by political means.

The commentary, however, deplored the presence in Saudi Arabia of the American troops saying that the holy lands of Muslims is now "being trampled under the boots of Jewish American soldiers" and reminding that as a result of the presence in the Saudi land of American troops "the conscience of the masses in the Muslim world has turned into a barnfull of gunpowder" which may be calmed only after the Americans have been ousted from the region.

The commentary said: As the results of Gorbachev-Bush meet in Helsinki was published (earlier this week) it promoted the view in political circles that the military lever in the Persian Gulf will be extremely difficult to apply.

Although the U.N. Security Council Resolution 665 as well as the massive Western propaganda before the summit meet indicated some sort of harmony between the two superpowers later developments proved the opposite.

Paragraphs one and two of the U.N. Security Council resolution which alternatively emphasizes on the application of a minimal military force and on continuing political endeavors for ending the crisis indicates the apparent differences in the outlooks of the two world powers. Nonetheless, it would be extremely worthwhile now trying to portray the future of the international crisis in the Persian Gulf as well as examine the current developments, and the duties of certain countries at the present time.

The summit meet proved that although the Soviets are concerned about interruption of their own programs and reformation at home and in the East European countries they are not at all interested in witnessing a deep international chasm.

The Soviets prefer the follow-up of their own publicized reformation programs-which had offered them the political initiative to the developments that have now come to pass.

For the same reason while Moscow is trying to turn the current crisis into good account for itself and thereby get concessions from the West and Arab countries it looks forward at long last to a political ending to it so that it will attain two principal goals, that is the pull-out of U.S. and NATO forces from the Persian Gulf and continuation of the process of perestroika and glasnost as well as the process of separation of Europe from the United

States which event will prevent the loss of Iraq from the circle of the pro-Soviet countries of the region.

To politicize the crisis would have certain benefits in stock for the Soviets, in that firstly it will prove that despite the vast troops deployment in the Persian Gulf it is political treaties and security-for-all or in the words of Gorbachev, "common security" that works rather than military solutions.

Although the fact of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has betrayed the inefficacy of military treaties and on top of them the doctrine of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council the United States nonetheless still tries to put an end to the crisis by relying on military power so that the West's labor of a decade in the region will not be lost.

Secondly once again it will seriously divide the United States and Europe and will convince the Western Europe about the inefficacy of military levers under the present international conditions. That development at the end of the Persian Gulf crisis will have the same consequences which are being checked as a result of the surfacing of the crisis in the Persian Gulf. The Soviets have long since sought to exploit their publicized programs as means whereby to divide Europe and the United States, which design the Persian Gulf crisis has, albeit temporarily, aborted because of the re-grouping of NATO in the region.

The solving of the differences between Iran and Iraq and the close relation of the Soviets with both countries has offered the Soviets a vantage position in the Persian Gulf.

The Soviets understand the benefits to them and to Europe for that matter of the political settlement of the situation, and also understand that they should not give the Americans a very large elbow room to operate in exchange for the concessions that they get from the United States.

Collaboration with France and China for controlling military activities in the region by involving the United Nations will somehow limit the future operation of the Americans in the region.

Also the exposing of the involvement of the West in the Iran-Iraq war will be a good lever for directing the public opinion against the West especially at the present moment that the holy land of Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] is being trampled under the boots of the Jewish soldiers of the United States...

To tolerate the shameless actions and the catastrophic developments over this past week which have desecrated the sanctities of Muslims by the hands of a bunch of abandoned and immoral Yankees would not be justifiable.

The conscience of the masses in the Muslim world has now turned into a barnfull of gunpowder which may be calmed only after such acts of defamation (in Saudi Arabia) are brought to an end.

Paper Urges Regional Countries To End Crisis

LD1609104290 Tehran IRNA in English 1031 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA—An Iranian daily Sunday said that the pace of events in the Persian Gulf indicates that the region must prepare itself for a prolonged tension. The morning daily 'ABRAR' in its editorial wrote that the U.S. policy in the region is to get its western allies and the regional client states involved in the crisis and internationalize it.

By nature presence of the U.S. in any part of the world will automatically create tension and aggravate the existing crisis. Therefore, added the daily, U.S. presence in Islamic lands will bring nothing for Muslims but corruption and destruction. Washington is well aware of the anti-U.S. sentiments of the people of the region which works as a deterrent factor blocking any action by the U.S. forces.

The editorial further noted that Washington is trying, by escalating Iraqi political confrontations with world countries, to push Baghdad to a diplomatic isolation. If the U.S. fails in this attempt, it will have no other option but to encourage a third country, likely Turkey, to become fully involved in a military confrontation with Iraq.

The paper added the crisis is in fact an American doing the outcome of which will be of no interest neither to the interests of the regional countries for oil consuming third world countries. [sentence as received] It called on the Islamic countries to examine ways of ending the crisis and work for simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and those of foreign countries from the region. Otherwise, ABRAR concluded, "the regional countries must prepare themselves for a prolonged crisis with inevitable negative impacts on the region."

Velayati Reviews 'Aziz Visit to Tehran

LD1609195990 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 16, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today briefed the Foreign Affairs Commission of the parliament (Majlis) on Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz's recent visit to Tehran. The commission also discussed recent developments in the Persian Gulf crisis resulting from Iraq's take-over of Kuwait on August 2 and the subsequent build-up of foreign forces in the area.

Tariq 'Aziz and his team including Iraqi Oil Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi were in Tehran on a 24 hour visit on September 9, the first by an Iraqi delegation following Saddam Husayn's acceptance of peace on Iranian terms. As a follow-up to the Iraqi foreign minister's visit, Iranian deputy foreign minister Manuchehr Mottaki today flew to Baghdad to follow up the POW swap, border demarkation, and resumption of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Demonstrations Against Visit

TA1409162090 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom
Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Reports indicate that the demonstrations staged since Sunday in various parts of Tehran against the arrival of Tariq 'Aziz to the Iranian capital continued until Wednesday, 12 September.

The demonstrators, a large part of whom were freed POW's, chanted slogans against the policy of rapprochement with Iraq as well as against Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government. In the demonstrations which were held in Tehran on Wednesday, the demonstrators shouted: "We did not endure torture for several years so that we could now witness the reception of our torturers."

Foreign Ministry Official To Go to Baghdad

LD1509094690 Tehran IRNA in English 0901 GMT
15 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Manuchehr Mottaki will reportedly visit Baghdad within the next few days at the head of a delegation, reported an Iranian daily Saturday. Tehran-Baghdad political relations, issues related to war prisoners, complete implementation of the U.N. resolution 598 and establishment of comprehensive peace between the two neighbouring countries are expected to be discussed between the Iranian delegation and the Iraqi officials during the visit, 'NAMEH-E IRAN' (IRAN GAZETTE) reported.

According to the paper "Mottaki's visit can be described as a preparatory trip made prior to the visit of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Baghdad." Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz who visited Tehran last Sunday invited his Iranian counterpart to return his visit in the near future.

It is also said that Mottaki during his visit will be making arrangement for the reopening of the two countries' embassies, an agreement on which was reached during 'Aziz's visit to Tehran, the daily added. Last month, Baghdad accepted all Iran's terms for peace including the 1975 accord, repatriation of war prisoners and withdrawal of forces to international borders. Baghdad also called on Tehran to start direct political negotiation for ending hostilities immediately afterwards

Iran Air Confirms Return of Airbus From Iraq

LD1509180590 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT
15 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—Another Iranian passenger plane, an airbus, was returned to Iran from Iraq after six years today. The plane was hijacked by the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq counter-revolutionaries on a Tehran-Shiraz flight on August 28, 1984. Managing director of the Islamic Republic Airlines (Iran Air) Hassan Shafii said here today that following the recent

regional developments and the acceptance of Iran's peace conditions by Iraq, Baghdad announced that it would return the plane to Iran.

A technical team comprising Iran Air experts were sent to Baghdad two weeks ago, and prepared the plane for a flight to Tehran after technical tests and changing of some parts including the engine. Noting that the plane had been kept in open space over the past six years without being used, Shafti said it needed precise technical and expert examinations to make sure about its safety before re-joining the Iran Air fleet.

He said talks on the return of another 727 Boeing will begin soon, and he expressed hope that it would be extradited to Iran shortly. Three Iranian passenger planes were hijacked and taken to Iraq during the imposed war, the first of which, a Falcon jet, was returned to Iran earlier this month.

More POW's Return From Iraq

LD1409190190 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1700 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] In continuation of the repatriation of POW's, another group of the intrepid free men returned to the Islamic homeland today. We draw your attention to our colleague's dispatch from Bakhtaran:

Today, the Khosravi border once more witnessed the victorious return of another batch of free men to the Islamic homeland. According to the Bakhtaran news unit correspondent in Qasr-e Shirin, 500 of the proud free men of Islam who were recently registered, entered the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning through the Khosravi border. On their arrival in the town of Khosravi, this group of free men received a warm welcome from a group of clerics, officials, and Islamic border guards based in the region. According to an official at the Khosravi border who was interviewed by our correspondent, this group of free men of Islam were supposed to have returned to the country last night.

According to our correspondent's report, following the return of this group of the intrepid POW's to the Islamic homeland, another 400 Iraqi POW's were handed over to the Iraqi authorities under Red Cross supervision. It is worth noting that in spite of the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness for the exchange of any number of POW's, so far no such exchange has been made. [as heard]

Tehran Commentary Views Relations With Iraq

NC1709084390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0608 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Political commentary from the "Voice of the Front" Feature]

[Text] The active presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in regional and world developments is a basic necessity, and the expansion of understanding with Iraq

through direct talks within the framework of the implementation of the 1975 Algiers Accord can be studied within this context.

Iran's diplomacy within this framework helps in the establishment of lasting peace and stability in the region and continues along the path that has been charted for defending the Islamic Republic's national interests. This is why in his meeting with the EEC envoy, our Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati pointed to the current regional situation and said that regarding our country's general policy: The Iran-Iraq peace talks and the crisis stemming from Iraq's aggression against Kuwait are two separate issues. The Islamic Republic's support for the UN Security Council is an important principle in our foreign policy. Actually we cannot adopt a passive stand vis-a-vis current political developments, and as the strongest regional country, we should maintain our active role.

Today western imperialism led by the United States is trying to exploit the current unfavorable condition which stems from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in order to strengthen their military-political positions in the region. Within this context, the policies of many regional countries such as Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia have been regulated to the benefit of this interfering presence. The writing off of Egypt's \$8-billion debt to America by Washington is part of the West's comprehensive plans to organize the regional countries into a group that will defend the West's interests.

In a bid to make its plans materialize, the United States is trying to organize its security strategy within the framework of a multinational force so that it can thus grant an international aspect to this direct military intervention and fulfill its military plans. The formation of a military staff between France and America in the Persian Gulf too can be studied within this context.

Thus, the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot stay indifferent and passive vis-a-vis these extensive developments; and the solution of political differences with Iraq too can be assessed within this framework and can pave the way for a more active role in regional developments. It is within this context that the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the solution of differences between Tehran and Baghdad and the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait are two separate and independent issues. And we, as an independent and strong regional country, should defend our national interests while remaining faithful to our principles that negate both military aggressions against other countries in any form and the West's military presence in the region by solving our differences with Iraq.

Following a policy of goodneighborly relations with our neighbors and insuring regional security through the regional countries without a foreign presence are two important and strategic principles in Iran's foreign policy. All our country's relations have been determined with this in mind and are based on these two principles. This is a stand which has resulted from a realistic assessment of regional developments and is based on a

logical balance. The complicated conditions in the Middle East today dictate that the current political and military developments be handled in a logical, principled and realistic way and that the political axes are able to solve political problems and not make the situation more difficult.

Iran's political approach to Iraq which led to the acceptance of the 1975 Algiers Accord [by Iraq] was actually an important and strategic step in this policy. It was the Islamic Republic's active and comprehensive policy—a policy that stemmed from a political sagacity and realism—which led to the current developments.

Thus, the fact that political developments between Iran and Iraq have become more active and that important and basic steps have been taken to overcome differences and to solve problems are actually tantamount to the removal of an important obstacle in the region. This phenomenon undoubtedly benefits world peace, security, and regional and international stability—something which will have a great impact in easing tensions.

It is because of this that Islamic Iran, within the framework of its regional policy of negating Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and of condemning U.S. military presence in the region, continues its talks with Baghdad within the framework of the implementation of the 1975 [Algiers] agreement and of Resolution 598 in order to achieve a lasting peace between the two countries. This is a clear-cut path which is important both for world and regional peace and which preserves the national interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Turkey's Ozal Phones Hashemi-Rafsanjani

*LD1509111890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 15 Sep 90*

[Text] The Turkish president, Mr. Turgut Ozal, in a phone call to the president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, reviewed and discussed the latest developments in the region. According to a report by the Central News Unit, during the phone discussions Mr. Ozal mentioned the possibility of a tour of the Persian Gulf regional states in the near future, as well as the visit to Iran by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and said that Turkish views on developments in the region will be delivered to our president through his special envoy.

According to the same report, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Turkey for their attention toward the positions adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding regional developments and welcomed the dispatch of the Turkish president's special envoy.

Turkish Envoy Arrives With Ozal Message

*LD1609075790 Tehran IRNA in English 0644 GMT
16 Sep 90*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA—Special envoy of the Turkish president Nabi Shansoy arrived here Sunday morning and was greeted by presidential advisor for

international affairs Ali Reza Moayeri. In an interview upon arrival Shansoy said he is to submit a message of president Turgut Ozal on current crisis in the Persian Gulf to president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Moayeri said that the visit follows the Saturday telephone conversation between President Ozal and President Rafsanjani in which the former proposed to relay Ankara's views on the latest regional developments to his Iranian counterpart through his special envoy.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

*LD1609111190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] This morning Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the special envoy of the Turkish president. According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Shansoy conveyed a message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal to our country's president. He said: The situation in the Persian Gulf is very explosive and Turkey continues to stress its decisive stand for a peaceful resolution of the Persian Gulf crisis. In accordance with the Security Council resolution, Turkey deems it necessary to impose an all-round embargo on Iraq, and it wants stability in this part of the world.

According to the report, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed gratitude for Mr. Ozal's message and for the despatch of his special envoy. It stressed the need for cooperation between the countries of the region in order to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwaiti territory and for not making concessions to an aggressor, he said. Observance of the Security Council resolutions will allow us to achieve our goals, protect the region from the grave consequences of military clashes, and deprive hegemonic forces of their excuse for continuing their military presence.

The president continued: The assertions of U.S. officials about the establishment of security and a long-term presence in the Persian Gulf region are totally unacceptable to the Muslim people of the region, and Muslims will not allow them to do such a thing. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Turgut Ozal's renewed invitation to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay an official visit to Turkey in the near future was submitted to our president.

Special Envoy Departs

*LD1709080190 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT
17 Sep 90*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA—Turkish president's special envoy Nabi Shansoy wrapped up his one-day visit to Tehran Monday morning after submitting a message from President Turgut Ozal to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on current crisis in the Persian Gulf region. The Turkish official was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by Presidential Advisor for International Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri.

While in Tehran, Shansoy conferred with President Rafsanjani and discussed the current regional crisis. He

also renewed President Ozal's invitation to President Rafsanjani to visit Ankara. The Turkish envoy arrived here Sunday [16 Sep] morning and held talks with Moayeri the same day.

Visit by Egyptian Diplomat to Tehran Denied

*LD1509161390 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT
15 Sep 90*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry today categorically refuted Western media reports on an alleged visit by a senior Egyptian diplomat to Tehran. An informed source at the Foreign Ministry told IRNA that no Egyptian official has visited Tehran since the two countries severed diplomatic relations in 1979, immediately after the outbreak of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Western news agencies Friday claimed that Monir Zahran, head of the International Organizations Department at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry had visited Tehran for talks on the release of Egyptian mercenaries captured by Iranian forces during the Iran-Iraq war. Repatriation of prisoners of war between Iran and Iraq began last month after Baghdad unconditionally accepted all Iranian terms for peace. The POW's swap is still continuing and is expected to be completed in a week's time.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Hopes For Peace in Lebanon

*LD1609112690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the new ambassadors of Czechoslovakia, Lebanon, and Yemen this morning. During the meetings the ambassadors presented their credentials to our country's president. According to a central news unit report, during the meeting with the Yemeni ambassador, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Iran is in favor of expanding her ties with all Islamic countries, especially those in the region.

During the meeting with the Lebanese ambassador, the president said: Iran is extremely concerned about the existing clashes between the various factions in Lebanon. We hope that peace and stability will return to Lebanon as soon as possible, and that all the Lebanese factions will utilize all their resources against the usurper zionist enemy and recover their land. We, too, are prepared to help resolve the existing disputes.

***Rules for Second Stage of Experts Elections**

Kashani Explains Eligibility

*90AS0391A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
16 Aug 90 p 2*

[Text] News Division: In a press, radio, and television interview, Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, the spokesman for the Council of Guardians, explained the method of determining the eligibility of candidates for the second Assembly of Experts.

While drawing attention to the guideline prepared by the Council of Guardians to determine the eligibility of candidates, he said: Based on these guidelines, if the Council of Guardians determines that a candidate for the Assembly of Experts has scholastically reached the level to be considered a source of emulation and, thus, is capable of understanding some jurisprudence issues and can identify a leader, then it [the Council of Guardians] will endorse his eligibility.

He added: Another standard for endorsing the qualifications of an Expert is his scholastic fame. If he possesses a scholastic character and his knowledge is recognized by theological centers, then such a person will be endorsed.

The spokesman for the Council of Guardians indicated: If a candidate's eligibility is determined by way of these two methods, then he will be tested by a number of scholars from the theological centers. These scholars will then submit to the Council of Guardians their written critiques of the candidate in regard to the examination, and the jurists of the Council of Guardians will study their critiques.

He said: Those whose position as a source of emulation were endorsed in the past by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his spirit be placed in heaven, or have been endorsed by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, then the Council of Guardians will also endorse their eligibility.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani pointed out: In order to conduct the examination of candidates, presently, one group of scholars in Tehran and two other groups in the city region of Qom have been formed. However, the number may increase if the need arises.

While referring to the changes in the Election Law of the Assembly of Experts, he said: In a recent session of the Assembly of Experts, the task of determining the eligibility of candidates for this council, formerly conducted by three scholars from theological centers, was given to the jurists of the Council of Guardians.

In connection with the reasons for changing the elections law of the Assembly of Experts, the spokesman for the Council of Guardians stated: There are some scholars in the theological centers who are not familiar with political and social issues. Some candidates may be endorsed by these scholars whose qualifications may not be suitable to the regime.

He added: Considering that the Council of Guardians is the most important jurisprudence center of the regime—hand-picked by the leader, neutral concerning issues facing the society and the regime and, thus, able to state its views of jurisprudence firmly and unequivocally—has been given this important task. Therefore, from a scientific, political, social, and moral point of view, it can confirm the eligibility of candidates.

Nuri Details Amendments

90AS0391B Tehran RESALAT in Persian
14 Aug 90 p 2

[TEXT] News Division: During an interview yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Nuri, the minister of interior, concerning the details of the conduct of elections for the second Assembly of Experts and the amendments ratified during the eighth annual session of the Assembly of Experts in connection with the "Law of Elections and Internal Guidelines of the Assembly of Experts"—which was ratified by the jurists of the Council of Guardians—the following information was provided to reporters:

Article One—The number of deputies from each province to the Assembly of Experts shall be the same as the number for the first [Assembly of Experts]. As of the census of 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987], for every one million increase in population of each province one deputy shall be added.

Note—In order to detach the city region of Qom from Central Province and join it with Tehran Province, one representative shall be added to Tehran Province and Central Province shall have two representatives.

—Paragraph B of Article Two

B—Jurisprudence to the point where he possesses the ability to understand some religious issues and is capable of identifying a jurisprudent qualified for leadership.

—Notes One and Two of Article Two

Note One—The source responsible for determining the above qualifications shall be the jurists of the Council of Guardians of the Constitution.

Note Two—Those whose qualifications as a source of emulation have been endorsed by the exalted leader of the Revolution, explicitly or implicitly, shall not require the scholastic confirmation of the jurists of the Council of Guardians.

Article Seven—Experts shall be elected by the relative majority vote of participants.

Note—In case the number of votes cast for two or several individuals is the same and there is no need for all of them, the representative(s) shall be selected by lottery.

Number of Candidates by Province

90AS0391C Tehran RESALAT in Persian
13 Aug 90 p 1

[TEXT] According to Mr. Nuri, the method of determining the eligibility of candidates will be announced by the jurists of the Council of Guardians in a press interview within the next several days. The minister of interior stated, however, that the qualification of voters shall be their citizenship of the Islamic Republic of Iran and a minimum age of 15.

Concerning the election campaigns of candidates for the second Assembly of Experts, he said: In order to supervise the correct conduct of the candidates' publicity campaigns, based on article 19 of the Law for Election of Experts, election oversight commissions shall be formed in every province in the presence of the governor-general, the prosecutor of the highest local court, and the observer of the Council of Guardians in the governorate.

He added: Based on article 110 of this law, the Ministry of Interior is tasked with ensuring the correct conduct of the election. For this purpose, it shall dispatch observers to various parts of the country in order to control the conduct of the election. This task has been given to the deputy for legal affairs of this ministry.

Mr. Nuri announced that the required documents for registration of those who wish to become candidates for the second Assembly of Experts shall be: a copy of all the pages of their birth certificate, four 6[cm] by 4[cm] pictures, and a completed questionnaire which will be available in the governorates.

He also said: The first Assembly of Experts shall continue its work until the end of month of Bahman [21 Jan-19 Feb] of the current year. The second assembly shall resume its work as of the month of Esfand [20 Feb-20 Mar].

The minister of interior announced the date of the elections for the second Council of Experts to be 8 Oct 1990, which coincides with the auspicious birthday of the Prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation).

Table of Assembly of Expert Electoral Constituencies and Their Number of Candidates

Number	Province	Number of Representatives
1	East Azarbaijan	7 people
2	West Azarbaijan	3 people
3	Esfahan	5 people
4	Ilam	1 person
5	Bakhtaran	2 people
6	Bushehr	1 person
7	Tehran	15 people
8	Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari	1 person
9	Khorasan	8 people
10	Khuzestan	5 people
11	Zanjan	3 people
12	Semnan	1 person
13	Sistan va Baluchestan	2 people
14	Fars	5 people
15	Kordestan	2 people
16	Kerman	3 people
17	Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad	1 person
18	Gilan	4 people

19	Loresian	3 people
20	Mazandaran	6 people
21	Central	2 people
22	Hormozegan	1 person
23	Hamadan	2 people
24	Yazd	1 person

Pakistan

Government Protests U.S. Ambassador's Remarks BK1509160090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] The U.S. charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad today and was told that the government is distressed and disappointed with the unwarranted interference in Pakistan's internal political process by U.S. ambassador to Pakistan Robert Oakley, in his remarks made during the Asia Society meeting in Washington on the 11th of this month. The charge d'affaires was told that the Government of Pakistan is amazed at the ambassador's remarks, which is tantamount to interference in Pakistan's internal affairs.

Prime Minister Disagrees

BK1709000590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1702 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Karachi, Sept 16 (AFP)—Pakistan's caretaker prime minister here Sunday differed with his Foreign Ministry's adverse reaction to U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley's statement on the country's politics. The ambassador said in a speech in Washington on Tuesday that the caretaker government should not confine its investigations into corruption to the rule of sacked Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The Pakistani Foreign Office Saturday described the ambassador's remarks as "unwarranted interference" in internal affairs and Information Minister Abida Hussain also rapped the U.S. for "siding" with the ousted premier in the run-up to elections next month. "I don't consider it interference in Pakistan's internal affairs," the interim premier, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, said at a press conference here when his attention was drawn to the ambassador's remarks.

The U.S. charge d'affaires, Elizabeth Jones, was summoned to the Foreign Office Saturday and told that the ambassador's observations had "disappointed the Pakistan Government." Mr. Oakley said: "In my view, if there is to be accountability for those holding political office, it should not start from November 16, 1988 elections which brought in the PPP, but should also include the 1985-88 period when the IJI parties and politicians ran the government."

Ms. Bhutto leads the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) while the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) is dominant

in the caretaker government of Mr. Jatoi who took over in early August. The ambassador had also said that if the accountability process was confined to the Bhutto era, the proceedings "will inevitably be seen as partisan and further divide the country."

The American envoy's statement embarrassed the caretaker administration as it appeared to support Ms. Bhutto's demand for accountability from 1985. Mr. Jatoi, who returned home Sunday from a Gulf tour, said he discussed with Saudi leaders the "far-reaching" implications of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"The blatant aggression has ominous implications not only for Moslem umma (nation) but also for the international community as a whole," he said. He hoped some solution would be found in the light of his discussions with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Pakistan has sent troops to Saudi Arabia as part of the multinational force there.

Editorial Views Ambassador's Remark

BK1409154790 Lahore THE NATION in English
14 Sep 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Mr Oakley's Advice"]

[Text] US Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Robert Oakley, has said that he supported the idea of "initiating accountability from 1985". He has further said that if this was not done the whole exercise would look like "political vendetta". His statement, when seen in the context of what President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said about accountability—that it is to cover the period of only the last twenty months and is not directed against any political party—would appear to be a rebuttal of the official line. In fact it is reiteration of the PPP stand on the issue. Notwithstanding the fact that public opinion on this is divided within the country, it does sound odd that the American Ambassador, bound as he is by a code of diplomatic ethics, should have opted to support one side of the political divide than the other.

It does not mean of course that the US Government is not entitled to have an assessment of its own about the political developments in the country. And it would also be unrealistic to assume that the US will keep its perceptions to itself, given the close ties it has with Pakistan. But to go public with a statement, which is clearly in conflict with one that the Head of State has made, is not only against the diplomatic norms, it would amount to interference of a sort in the internal affairs of the country. Not only could it embarrass the President, it could also be construed as an attempt to tilt public opinion against the steps that the present government has initiated. The use of strong words such as "partial" and "farce" (in connection with accountability) even though with some qualifications, could have been avoided. His Excellency the Ambassador is clearly free to tender such advice in confidence to the President, as he deems proper for and in the best interest of Pakistan-US relations, but may one suggest that the relations of

the two countries would be served best if the dignity of the offices of the President and the Prime Minister is kept in view.

Jatoi Holds News Conference on Gulf, Elections

*BK1609165290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] Prime Minister Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has said that Pakistan condemns the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait because this action is against international law and prejudicial to the charters of the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference. Addressing a news conference in Karachi this evening, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that the issues relating to the Gulf situation are causes of international concern and there is a need for regional efforts to solve these issues. That is why Pakistan has adopted the principled stand along with the international community on Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. The prime minister said that Pakistan has decided to support the sanctions imposed by the UN security Council against Iraq and has sent a contingent of armed forces at the request of Saudi Arabia to help its armed forces in the protection of the holy places.

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that Pakistan attaches great importance to the strengthening of existing excellent relations with the Gulf states. He said following Iraqi aggression and annexation of Kuwait, the importance of Pakistan's bilateral relations with the Organization of Economic Cooperation [comprising Pakistan, Iran and Turkey] and the member countries of Gulf Cooperation Council has further increased. This naked Iraqi aggression has had a far-reaching impact not only on the Muslim community but on the world community at large.

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said during his talks with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain as well as the Amir, crown prince, and prime minister of Kuwait that he felt that they are seriously concerned over the dangerous situation arising out of Iraqi aggression. He apprised them about Pakistan's clear stand and assured them that Pakistan continues to support all those steps which are aimed at unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and restoration of its independence and sovereignty. He assured the Kuwaiti leaders that Pakistan will continue to support and express solidarity with Kuwait to deal with the dangers and difficulties caused by recent events.

The prime minister said that he apprised these leaders and Bangladeshi President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, whom he met in Jedda, about the situation in the occupied Kashmir and told them that India is continuing to crush the legitimate aspirations of the people of Kashmir and has also refused to withdraw its troops to the peacetime position and start a dialogue to settle the Kashmir issue peacefully. He also apprised these leaders

about the Afghan interim government's plan for elections in Afghanistan. The prime minister said these leaders expressed complete identity and strong support for Pakistan's stand.

Answering a question, he denied that his talks with the leaders of the regional states covered any plan for regional security. He said that if the Saudi Arabian Government requested, Pakistan would consider sending more troops.

Answering another question about the removal of the caretaker government, the prime minister said this rumor is completely baseless. He said the present government will hold free, fair and impartial elections and it will, God willing, win these elections. About differences in the Islamic Democratic Alliance about some seats of the National Assembly, he hoped that this will be settled in the same spirit with which they had come together. He also denied that the elections are being postponed.

Answering a question about the accountability process, the prime minister said some cases have been presented to the special courts and the remaining ones also will soon be presented. He said the previous government members have made records vanish and important official documents relating to some cases have been burnt.

About the release of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement workers, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said it has been decided on principle that all political workers arrested by the previous government on political grounds will be released. The cases of these workers are being reviewed and a decision will be made soon.

Jatoi Gulf Tour Reviewed

*BK1609092590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] Prime Minister Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi held talks with the Amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, in Manama yesterday. They made an in-depth review of various matters of mutual concern, particularly the situation in the Gulf. The two sides underlined the need for an unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimate Kuwaiti leadership. The prime minister apprised the amir of Bahrain of Pakistan's principled stand on the Gulf crisis and its efforts for a peaceful settlement in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and avoidance of a disastrous situation in the region.

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi briefed Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah on the latest situation in South Asia, particularly in light of India's continuous refusal to withdraw its forces from the borders of Pakistan and the latest developments relating to the Afghan issue. The prime minister was assisted at the talks by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Interior Minister Mr. Zahid Sarfaraz, and Commerce Minister Mr. Elahi Bux Soomro, while the Amir of Bahrain was assisted by his

ministers and top advisers. The Pakistan prime minister also held talks with the prime minister of Bahrain.

Earlier, the prime minister was given a very warm welcome on arrival in Manama from Abu Dhabi. In an arrival statement, the prime minister said his visit was primarily meant to express Pakistan's deep concern at the grave situation arising from the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait and demonstrate Pakistan's firm solidarity with the brotherly country of Bahrain and other Gulf states.

Before leaving Abu Dhabi for Bahrain, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said his discussions with UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan have been constructive. There was a complete identity of views between the two leaders on various issues of bilateral and regional interest. He said they agreed on the need for a frequent exchange of visits between the leaders of the two brotherly countries at the highest level and to keep watch on the developments in the region. The prime minister said he also briefed the UAE president on the latest developments regarding Kashmir as well as Pakistani efforts for a peaceful political settlement of the Afghanistan issue.

Prime Minister Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi returned to Karachi last night after his four-day visit to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain. Sindh Governor Mr. Mahmud A. Haroon, consul generals of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, and top officials welcomed the prime minister. The prime minister is addressing a news conference in Karachi this afternoon.

PPP Candidate, Companions Assassinated in Sindh

BK1709071090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0645 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Karachi, Sept 17 (AFP)—Gunmen shot dead a leading member of ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and six others in southern Sindh, police here said Monday. Police said armed men blocked the road Sunday and opened fire indiscriminately on the car of Nisar Ahmed Lund as he was returning from Sukkur to Jarwal, his native village, with six friends, killing everyone in the car.

Mr. Lund was a PPP candidate contesting from the town of Ghotki near Sukkur, about 540 kilometres (300 miles) north of here, for both a National Assembly seat and a seat in Sindh's Provincial Assembly. The assailants escaped, police said, attributing the murders to old enmity between the Lund clan and that of Bher Chundi Sharif. Mr. Lund's father, Sardar Nur Mohammed Lund, is chief of the clan and a member of the assembly which President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dissolved last month. [passage omitted]

Fighting Escalates at Kashmir Border 15 Sep

BK1509140090 Lahore THE NATION in English 15 Sep pp 1, 10

[From Ahmed Rashid—Special to the Nation]

[Text] Kel (Azad Kashmir)—As tension between India and Pakistan increases during the traditionally crucial months of September and October, heavy skirmishing is underway in one crucial sector along the disputed border in Kashmir. Up to 3,500 artillery shells have been fired in a single day, in what is described as the most serious military escalation between the two countries since the uprising in Indian Held Kashmir began last January.

Among towering peaks covered with pine forests and the Neelum river crashing its way through a Valley strewn with boulders and giant logs, tens of thousands of Pakistani and Indian troops have been slogging away at each other in a massive artillery duel for the past six weeks. Although the rest of the tense border is quiet for the moment, at Kel, 100 miles due west of Muzaffarabad, both sides have exchanged 500 artillery shells in just two days this week.

Pakistani army officers said skirmishing in the mountains around Kel began in late July when Indian troops made two attempts to advance towards a Pakistani forward position in the mountains. The line of control runs along a heavily forested ridge where peaks are 13,000 feet high. Across the line of the control is Kupwara where Kashmiri militants have increased their attacks on Indian troops in recent months.

The Indian attacks, using company size formations took place on July 21st and August 13-14th, when Indian troops crossed the 500 yards no mans belt on either side of the line. The Indian troops were repulsed with at least 100 casualties, while later Indian newspapers claimed Pakistan had suffered 54 casualties, which Pakistan denies. Both sides refuse to give estimates of their own casualties.

Since then India has launched almost daily heavy artillery barrages against army posts, villages and all civilian traffic on the road from Kel to Muzaffarabad. The Indians have used heavy mortars and field artillery, including Bofors heavy guns for the first time since the uprising in India Held Kashmir sources relations between the two countries. [sentence as published] Pakistani troops have retaliated with their artillery and both sides exchanged some 3500 artillery shells on a single day last month. Small arms fire from their respective bunkers tucked into the mountain sides, some just 1000 yards apart, is reported to be heavy and almost continuous. "You are lucky, this is a relatively peaceful day here" said a senior field officer.

Pakistani officers said the Indians are trying to stem the tide of Kashmiri refugees fleeing to Azad Kashmir before the snows block the passes. Some 8,000 refugees, including 1,000 women and children have come though

Kel along in the past 8 months after crossing high peaks and walking through the low lying river valleys by night. "The Indians are escalating at selective points along the border by upgrading from small arms fire to mortars and then field artillery. When there is so much pressure on the Indians inside Kashmir, they have to let the steam out somewhere" said an officer.

However, the Indians say that Kel is a major crossing point for thousands of Kashmiri freedom fighters who acquire weapons and training from Pakistan. Islamabad has denied these charges but thousands of young Kashmiris are being housed in refugee camps in Azad Kashmir. On the Pakistani side villages have been smashed in the shelling and the terrified villagers have fled. "Help us, tell the world, our lives are destroyed, said Gul Khandan, headman of Chaknot village whose 1600 people are now living in the forests after incessant shelling forced them to flee. He is now petitioning the Azad Kashmir government for compensation for his village. Another village has already received compensation for the damage done to it during Indian shelling.

"The next six weeks, until the snows block the passes in late October, will be very tense," said a senior army officer. September and October have traditionally been the months for war between India and Pakistan. India now has some 250,000 troops in Kashmir and along the border company formations have been reinforced with entire brigades, offices said. Pakistan has over 100,000 troops in Kashmir. Although the army refused to disclose its casualties, 12 wounded Pakistani soldiers and 15 civilians are living in the Military Hospital at Muzaffarabad. Some civilians were hit on the road as Indian artillery pounds anything in sight.

Army officers describe the fighting level as "heavy skirmishing" although to the untrained eye it appears that a low intensity battle is underway. The army admits it is the most serious military escalation since tension erupted nine months ago. The effects of the uprising in Indian Kashmir are now horribly visible in Azad Kashmir. Three days ago villagers pulled out a mutilated body from the river Jehlum near Muzaffarabad which also flows through Held Kashmir. Dead bodies now regularly float down the river. Hundreds of refugees have arrived from Held Kashmir in the last few days with horrendous tales of repression by Indian troops. Their bodies are scarred with beatings, electrode marks, broken bones while women have been raped.

The action in Kel has so far been downplayed by both the Pakistani and the Indian military establishments, but clearly the situation on this sector of the line is serious with a huge expenditure of ammunition and substantial damage to the villages on the Pakistani side. On the Indian side of the line, villages are not allowed to cultivate their fields in a 10 mile deep belt so the civilian population is far less.

In the first week of October the Indian and Pakistani foreign secretaries will meet in Islamabad for the third round of so

far fruitless talks between the two countries. A crucial result of the Gulf crisis, or it could be a blessing in disguise to contain an escalation of hostilities on the Sub-continent is that both armies have had to cut their petrol supplies to their frontline troops substantially to preserve their stocks according to reliable sources. However, with the world pre-occupied with the Gulf, there is little international incentive to bring international pressure to bear on India for a resolution of the crisis in Kashmir.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Issues Appeal on Gulf Refugees

BK1409143090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1412 GMT
14 Sep 90

[Text] Colombo, Sept 14 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa Friday appealed for urgent international help to bring home thousands of stranded Sri Lankan workers from the Middle East. "Your support, indeed your speedy support, will be of immense value to us at this time of need," Mr. Premadasa said here at a meeting with ambassadors of donor nations. He said the problem was of "extremely serious proportions, and the need is immediate."

"I wish to appeal to you all to use your good offices with your governments to apprise them of the unprecedented challenge" that Sri Lanka faces and to provide assistance "in whatever way you can," Mr. Premadasa said. He said that due to the "prospect of starvation" for the 80,000 Sri Lankans trapped in Kuwait following Iraq's August 2 invasion, Colombo would seek U.N. help to send relief to the needy.

Mr. Premadasa also spelt out measures to speed up evacuation, including special flights organised by national carrier Air Lanka, the U.N.-sponsored International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and Saudi Arabian airlines. He added that a chartered vessel will leave the Jordanian port of Aqaba Friday for Sri Lanka carrying some 1,900 Sri Lankan workers and that increasing flights from Amman to Colombo had also been proposed.

The president said that at a time when Colombo was fighting a war against Tamil rebels in the northeast, the problems caused by the gulf crisis in financial and material terms were "critical" for Sri Lanka.

The island's economy, which has taken a beating due to the escalating violence in the northeast, will be worse hit by the return of the Sri Lankan workers from Kuwait who contribute significantly to the country's foreign exchange reserves, officials said. "The internal problems we were facing so resolutely," Mr. Premadasa said, "have now been compounded by an external crisis of serious proportions."

"It is a humanitarian problem of a very sad and distressing nature whose dimensions, since they affect a

large section of our society, could be deep and pervasive," the president added. "Along with others similarly placed, we are collectively making strenuous efforts through the United Nations system, to seek relief for those affected," he said, referring to thousands of Asian workers who have now become refugees.

Mr. Premadasa also heads a eight-member committee consisting of senior cabinet ministers which was formed to expedite the repatriation process. According to the president, some 7,000 Sri Lankans who had fled Kuwait to neighbouring states have been already flown home on special flights. "We still have around 85,000 refugees in Kuwait itself," he said.

Meanwhile, Air Lanka will launch a mass evacuation plan Saturday to help speed up repatriation. Describing the plan as a "mercy mission," an Air Lanka spokesman said that the national carrier would operate approximately 15 flights per week to Amman to bring back the remaining refugees in the Jordanian capital.

He said the airline has appointed a special task force "to organise and coordinate the transport of refugees" from the Middle East and added that Air Lanka would use its four Lockheed Tristar aircraft as well as chartered planes for the special operation. Officials expect more than 2,000 refugees to be brought home on nine flights scheduled under the evacuation plan from Saturday to Monday. "We would try to accommodate more flights in collaboration with the IOM with the minimum disruption to our regular schedule," the Air Lanka spokesman said. Air Lanka currently operates 14 flights every week to the Middle East.

Air Lanka To Start Evacuation of Refugees

BK1409111290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1050 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Colombo, Sep 14 (AFP)—Air Lanka will launch a "mercy mission" Saturday to evacuate thousands of Sri Lankans stranded in the Middle East after President Ranasinghe Premadasa set up a special team headed by him to expedite the repatriation process. An Air Lanka spokesman said Friday that the national carrier would operate approximately 15 flights per week to Amman during the "mercy mission" to bring back more than 4,500 Sri Lankan refugees stranded at a Jordanian camp.

The Sri Lankans fled to Jordan from Kuwait, where they were employed, in the aftermath of the August 2 invasion of the tiny emirate by Iraqi troops. The current evacuation of thousands of refugees, mostly Asians, from Amman has not emptied the camps which continue to be congested with an increasing number of Asians fleeing Kuwait every day.

According to the Air Lanka spokesman, the airline has appointed a special task force "to organise and coordinate the transport of refugees" from the Middle East. "Oh, yes, there can be more flights," the spokesman said when asked whether the airline would operate more than

the planned 15 flights per week. "We would use our own aircraft as well as chartered planes for the mercy mission," he added.

Air Lanka has a fleet of four Lockheed Tristar aircraft that could be diverted for this purpose, the spokesman said. He added that two Iluysin-86 aircraft offered to the Sri Lankan government by the Soviet Union would facilitate the evacuation process. "We would try to accommodate more flights in collaboration with the IOM (International Organisation for Migration) with the minimum disruption to our regular schedule," he said.

The IOM, a U.N.-sponsored welfare organisation, has brought home more than 2,000 stranded Sri Lankans on special charter flights, while the European Economic Community has also funded Air Lanka flights under a relief grant. The spokesman said there would "probably be two such flights a day with each flight bringing back a full load of some 230 refugees from Amman." He said that the total cost of the evacuation plan was being worked out but that he expected it to be shared by the government and foreign organisations.

At present Air Lanka operates some 14 flights to the Middle East every week, but its service to Kuwait, which has been suspended since the gulf crisis erupted, had been the most profitable service. The airline will incur a loss of about 400 million rupees (10 million dollars) if it does not operate its three return flights a week to Kuwait for the rest of the year, officials said.

Mr. Premadasa meanwhile formed an eight-member committee headed by him to expedite the repatriation process. The committee, which includes Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge, Foreign Minister Harold Herath and Labour Minister G.M. Premachandra, Friday renewed Colombo's appeal to the diplomatic corps here for international assistance. The help sought from the international community includes the chartering of ships and aircraft to bring back the refugees staying mainly at camps in Jordan as well as in Riyadh, Cairo, Abu Dhabi, Tehran and Ankara. Colombo has also asked Baghdad's permission to evacuate more than 80,000 Sri Lankans direct from Kuwait. Iraqi officials have said they would consider the request.

Ministers Discuss Evacuation of Nationals

BK1609123490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1049 GMT 16 Sep 90

[“OANA/Pool” item]

[Text] Colombo, Sep 16 (LANKAPUVATH)—The ministerial sub committee appointed by his excellency the president to assist the evacuation of Sri Lankans affected by the Middle East crisis met this morning at the Ministry of Higher Education. Minister of justice and higher education, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, presided. The other ministers present were Mr Wijayapala Mendis, minister of transport; Mr Harold Herath, minister of foreign affairs; Mr G. M. Premachandra, minister of

labour and vocational training; Mr Rupa Karunatileke, minister of ports and shipping.

The ministerial sub committee considered the present position of the Sri Lankans in the Middle East and specially those who have left Kuwait and who are in Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The committee decided that the number of flights should be increased from next Tuesday [18 September] bringing an average of thousand Sri Lankans everyday. In addition it was also decided to increase the number of ships to expedite the evacuation process. According to the arrangements, the first ship, carrying 2,000 Sri Lankans, will leave from the port of Aqaba tomorrow.

It was also decided that immediate effort should be made to air-lift and also to bring by ships the Sri Lankans who are now in Amman, Jordan. At present there are 7,000 Sri Lankans in Jordan and many more outside the border of Jordan. It is expected that as soon as this 7,000 is cleared the Jordanian Government would open the border for another batch of Sri Lankans and the same procedure to be repeated.

The committee also decided to air-lift the Sri Lankans who have reached Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) from Kuwait. The ministerial committee also decided that all possibilities of bringing the Sri Lankans from Kuwait and Baghdad should be explored and appropriate action taken as early as possible. It was also agreed that a food ship with other essential items must be sent for the Sri Lankans in Kuwait and that the necessary clearance must be obtained immediately from the United Nations Economic Sanction Committee in New York.

Further Reportage on Jaffna Fort Incidents

Communique Details Assault

BK1409122790 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] The security forces advanced on Jaffna with naval and air support thus breaking the three month's siege of the Jaffna Fort by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists during the last 24 hours ending 1200 noon yesterday. [sentence as heard] Over 200 soldiers and policemen have been rescued and saved from death which appeared to be unavoidable if the terrorists overran the Jaffna Fort. A Defense Ministry communique says the assault on Jaffna was meticulously planned and executed. For the past few weeks the security forces had consolidated themselves in the island of Mandaitivu of the Jaffna Peninsula. Yesterday morning, army assault units comprising of the First Gajaba Regiment, First Singha Regiment, Fourth Gajaba Regiment, Fifth Gamon Watch, Sixth Gajaba Regiment, the Special Force Regiment, which had earlier cleared the area from Kayts to Mandaitivu island, supported by the Air Force and the Navy made the final assault. The assaulting battle group has successfully relieved the fort. It is now consolidating and clearing the adjacent areas.

Heavy resistance by the LTTE terrorists have been reported. The security forces have reported eight soldiers, three Navy and one Air Force personnel killed and 40 security services personnel injured in action. Over 100 LTTE terrorists are reported killed and many wounded in this assault by the security forces.

The communique further says a single-engined Siai Marchetti aircraft flying in support of the assault had reported mechanical failure. Thereafter, the pilot ditched the aircraft into the lagoon between the fort and the Mandaitivu island. Navy divers are engaged in recovering the aircraft. The pilot is reported missing.

Operations are continuing in the Eastern Province and the special task force conducting counterterrorist operations in (Purunelwal) island in Amparai District reported the killing of four LTTE terrorists in a counter-attack. Grenades, ammunition, rifles, equipment and a large stock of food items have been recovered.

The security forces retaliated to an attack by the LTTE terrorists in the (Kalwatte) area of (Sinwatta). It is reported that one officer was killed in action and three soldiers wounded in the ensuing firefight. Two LTTE terrorists were killed and their rifles, ammunition, and radio equipment were recovered. According to the communique, the LTTE terrorists attacked a group of Muslims who were harvesting their crops in the (Purnasativu) area in the Trincomalee District. The security forces rushed to the area and repulsed the terrorists. One civilian is reported to have died and one wounded in the cross-fire. Donations to the National Defense Fund has exceeded the 166-million rupee mark.

LTTE Says Fort Under Siege

BK1609052590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0515 GMT
16 Sep 90

[Text] Colombo, Sept 16 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers claimed Sunday they were still maintaining their siege of an army-controlled colonial fort in the northern town of Jaffna. In a statement received here from the group's London office, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said their "fighters continue to keep the Jaffna Fort under siege."

They said they had beaten back a second attempt by the army to break the siege on Friday of the 350-year-old Dutch-built fort. On Thursday, the guerrillas denied the siege had ended, hours after Colombo announced it had broken the three-month siege of the fort which houses the main army garrison on the Jaffna Peninsula, a traditional Tiger stronghold.

The LTTE said that in Friday night's military bid to lift the siege, about 50 army soldiers "who tried to land on the mainland were made to hurry back to Mandaitivu." The troops fled, according to LTTE, after the two boats carrying the soldiers came under heavy rifle and rocket-propelled grenade fire.

Mandativu Island, lying off the northern peninsula, fell to government forces during an all-out army assault which began three weeks ago. Since then, Mandativu has been used as a launching pad by ground, air and sea units to attack LTTE targets around the fort, located on the peninsula about two kilometers (1.24 miles) away. It was from Mandativu that hundreds of troops made a commando-style landing on the peninsula in rubber dinghies on Thursday.

The statement also said that two Sri Lankan soldiers died Friday after being hit by LTTE sniper fire inside Jaffna Fort. It said that since Thursday, "in the heroic fight put up by the LTTE cadres to defeat the Sri Lankan attempt to break the siege around Jaffna Fort, 13 fighters, including a female named Captain Anjana," had died.

Military officials here said some of the 200 soldiers and policemen who have been holed up inside the imposing 17th century Dutch structure have been evacuated to hospitals for medical treatment. Officials maintain the siege was broken but acknowledge that the rebels, while retreating from certain areas around the fort, had been offering stiff resistance near well-fortified bunkers containing underground escape routes.

The SUNDAY TIMES quoted Army Commander Lieutenant General Hamilton Wanasinghe as saying that the colonial fort was still vulnerable to LTTE mortar attacks. He said that nearly 2,000 soldiers have been stationed in and around the fort and that operations were continuing to clear the fort area and were approaching nearby Jaffna Hospital despite Tiger resistance.

Tamil guerrillas were said to have mounted anti-aircraft guns on the premises of Jaffna Hospital, which was closed in June due to stepped up fighting between troops trapped inside the fort and rebels in their bunkers. Meanwhile, the LTTE said their fighters fired rockets to destroy the ammunition dump at the Chilavaturai army camp in northern Mannar District on Friday night. LTTE did not give details.

The Chilavaturai camp and other garrisons in the region came under heavy rebel fire beginning late Friday, officials said, adding the attacks were an apparent diversionary tactic by the LTTE to draw the army away from its offensive near the fort. The guerrillas besieged most army camps in the island's northern territory after the armed conflict between government troops and the LTTE resumed on June 11, shattering 14 months of peace talks between Colombo and the rebels. According to unofficial and official estimates, nearly 4,100 people have died in violence in the northeast, where the Tigers want to carve out a separate Tamil state.

LTTE Repulses Attack

*BK1609091690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, further progress of the combined forces to widen their control of Jaffna Fort areas

remained stalled because of the stiff resistance by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres. Their attempt to move toward the hospital and the central telegraph office has been repulsed by the militants. Official reports from Colombo say that one soldier was killed and another wounded and a rubber boat damaged at Kankesanthurai when security forces tried to advance from the area.

Our Colombo correspondent Karupaswamy reports that LTTE cadres seem to be attacking all the four major Army and Naval detachments in the peninsula simultaneously just to divert the concentration on the Jaffna Fort.

Elsewhere, in the east, three LTTE men were killed by security forces. In (Kattankudi) area, a Tamil civilian was allegedly killed by Muslim terrorists. In another place, also in Batticaloa District, six Muslims are reported to have been abducted by the LTTE militants.

Servicemen Killed, Wounded

*BK1609114390 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 16 Sep 90*

[Text] During the last 24 hours ending 1200 yesterday, major military operations have been conducted in the Jaffna Fort area. Clearing operations have been conducted to clear the area of mines, numerous explosive devices, and booby traps. Such explosive devices have been planted in every building in the area by the retreating LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists.

Since the assault on Jaffna was launched from the Mandaitivu Islands on the 13th of September, the security forces have reported four Army officers, one Air Force officer, 19 soldiers, and two sailors killed and 106 servicemen wounded in action.

The security forces in the Eastern Province continued clearing operations, laying ambushes, and providing security to the Muslim and Sinhalese villagers threatened by the LTTE terrorists. The Special Task Force—STF—and the security forces have been receiving information from the general public about the movements and hideouts of the LTTE terrorists.

LTTE Alleges Use of Napalm Bomb

*BK1709094190 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 17 Sep 90*

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has alleged that the Sri Lankan Air Force has resumed bombing the northern Jaffna Peninsula with napalm and barrel bombs. In a statement issued in London, the LTTE said that 22 persons have been killed and hundreds of buildings damaged in the bombing. The Sri Lankan Government has denied the LTTE's allegation.